Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الرأي»

Volume 19 · Number 6026 · AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-22, 1995, RABI' ALTHANI 26-27, 1416 · Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Talibans serve ultimatum on Kabul

MAIDAN SHAHR (AFP) — The Taliban militia have given Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military backers five days to surrender or face an attack on the Afghan capital Kabul by its forces. The deadline came from a senior Taliban spokesman on the western frontlines here Wednesday. "We have given them a five-day ultimatum, starting from today," said Mullah Mishr, the Taliban frontline commander based in the provincial capital Maidan Shahr. Pro-Rabbani security forces, under the overall command of ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Masood, have been braced for a Taliban offensive from the direction of Maidan Shahr, 40 kilometres west of Kabul, for a week now. (see page 2). "Rabbani and Masood should peacefully give up power and leave Kabul," said Mullah Mishr, a former Mujahedeen commander from Uruzgan province whose real name is Mullah Abdul Qayum. He said Mr. Masood could retire to the Panjsher Valley and Mr. Rabbani to his native province of northeastern Badakhshan, but neither should leave the country.

Due to the closure of **Alexandria** International Airport for maintenance purposes. Royal Jordanian would Like to inform all our passengers that all flights to/from Alexandria will be temporarily suspended for the period 1 October till 30 November 1995, to resume it's operation as of 1 December 1995 to the normal schedule.

For more information please call 663525

ROYAL JORDANIAN الملكية الأردنية

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

EUROPEAN SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

Arab League Council seeks a mechanism to end inter-Arab conflicts

Abdul Meguid demands Arab seat in Security Council, urges strategy for Amman summit

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League foreign ministers began a two-day meeting in Cairo on Wednesday on new ways to stop Arab conflicts escalating into violence.

Haunted by memories of the war for Kuwait in 1991, they are moving closer to creating an Arab court of justice and are expected at this six-monthly meeting to approve a code of honour outlawing the use of force in disputes between member states.

Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid urged the ministers to adopt the code and delegates to the meeting said they expected it would pass without much resistance.

But the court of justice has been on the Arab League agenda for 50 years and Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez told Reuters that more time was needed to look at observations that member states have submitted to the secretariat.

Dr. Abdul Meguid also attacked Israel's celebrations of 3,000 years of a Jewish presence in Jerusalem and unexpectedly took a strongly pro-government position in the war between Algerian security forces and Muslim fundamentalists.

On the court of justice, he said the secretariat had finally drawn up the statutes and was submitting them to the ministers.

"Its mission is to prevent conflict and to settle any conflict that may arise... through peaceful means. It is not in opposition to the jurisdiction of the international court of justice but is complementary to it," he added.

But Mr. Bouez said parts of the statutes might still be at odds with the laws and constitutions of some Arab countries.

"That is why setting up this court is very delicate. We should not have a court and then, when we have a problem, not resort to it or avoid implementing its verdicts," he said.

Arab diplomats said Gulf states were particularly wary of giving a commitment to let an Arab court, rather than an international court, rule on sensitive matters of sovereignty.

Mr. Bouez said the code of

(Continued on page 7)

Setback to reconciliation will harm Arabs – Jordan

FOREIGN MINISTER Abdul Karim Kabariti said Wednesday that Jordan was currently playing an important positive and fundamental role in reestablishing confidence among Arab states.

Speaking in Cairo, where he is taking part in an Arab League Council meeting, Mr. Kabariti said that any setback to the reconciliation process among Arab states will be a setback for pan-Arab interests.

Meetings between Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meeting bear a great significance and are more important than the regular topics on the council's agenda, he said.

With reference to Jordanian-Egyptian relations, Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan was coordinating and consulting with Cairo in all matters but "this does not mean that the two sides agree on all issues."

However, he added, Cairo and Amman hold identical views with regard to the basic issues, particularly Arab reconciliation and the Middle East peace process.

The minister said Jordan considers the few anti-Jordanian articles appearing in Egyptian papers "do not reflect the official stand but the views of writers who oppose Jordanian-Egyptian coordination and are not happy to see Jordan, being a small country, playing a major role in restoring confidence, bringing about reconciliation among Arab states and erasing the tension that lingered in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis."

Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan had taken active part in drafting the Arab code of honour, noting that

(Continued on page 7)

Iranian passengers sit in the buffet of Ovda military airport in southern Israel after their plane was hijacked and landed there on Tuesday (AFP photo)

Hijacked Iranian airliner to return home minus hijacker

OVDA, Israel (Agencies) — A hijacked Iranian airliner carrying 176 people was scheduled to take off for Tehran late Wednesday after being further delayed by a technical breakdown, Israeli officials said.

Crew and passengers boarded the Boeing 707 after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin took the decision at an inner cabinet meeting to release the aircraft, "despite Iran's hostility."

"We have suffered too much from hijackings to keep these people," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

But technicians then found a defective part which had to be replaced and passengers disembarked again and returned to the terminal at the Ovda air force base in the desert.

Repairs had to be completed before the plane could fly out, the officials said.

A steward who hijacked the aircraft with a pistol on Tuesday remained behind in Israel, where he has requested political asylum.

Five other passengers, who also reportedly requested asylum in Israel or a Western country after landing Tuesday, would be on the plane, state radio reported.

A total of 163 passengers and 14 crew were on board upon arrival, including the steward, the army said.

Israel rejected Iran's demand that the hijacker be extradited.

The hijacker was identified Wednesday as Jabari Rizah, a 29-year-old flight attendant. Mr. Rizah was being held at a police lockup in the Red Sea resort of Eilat, some 30 kilometres south of the airbase where the plane had landed, police said.

Mr. Rizah was to be brought before a municipal judge in Eilat on Thursday for a remand hearing.

The cabinet said all passengers and crew were being flown back. Israel army radio said this included five Iranian passengers who had requested political asylum in Israel. One woman passenger had turned to an Israeli army officer and asked to be allowed to stay in Israel.

The Itim news agency said the steward could be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross to find a country willing to take him.

Despite angry protests in Tehran, the government delayed the departure Tuesday night to check if any of the Iranians had information about Ron Arad, an Israeli aviator missing since his fighter plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986.

Israel holds Tehran responsible for his fate.

Israeli secret service agents questioned the men and women separately at the Ovda base. The radio said an Iranian general was among the passengers.

Arad's mother, Batia, gave the crew and passengers a letter for Iranian leaders to try to obtain her son's release.

She appealed, in a voice broken with emotion, for them "to be the angels who intervene with President (Ali Akbar) Rafsanjani."

Her words were simultaneously translated into Farsi, but most of the passengers said they had never heard of Ron Arad.

She said she fell "betrayed by the government" for releasing the aircraft.

"We believe we have to use this opportunity to establish contact with the regime in power in Iran which has been holding my son for years," she said.

Several right-wing deputies

(Continued on page 7)

'Kamel guarantee for peaceful change in Iraq'

KUWAIT (AP) — A member of Saddam Hussein's inner circle who defected to Jordan last month would help secure a peaceful change of leadership in Iraq, Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was quoted as saying Wednesday.

He told Kuwait's daily Al Siyassah that Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel "represents the guarantee that a change in Iraq would not be bloody and that Iraq would stay united."

He said Gen. Kamel, who fled to Jordan with his brother and their two wives — both daughters of President Saddam — was "a balanced person who knows what he wants."

The defection by Gen. Kamel, who masterminded Iraq's secret armament programme, shook and deeply embarrassed Saddam government. His vow to oust the Iraqi president received the public support of King Hussein.

But Arab leaders have expressed fears following the much-publicised defections that political change in Iraq could be bloody and that President Saddam's overthrow might be followed by the partition of Iraq into three separate entities — a Kurdish north, a Shi'ite Muslim south and a Sunni Muslim centre.

The Kuwaiti daily's interview with Mr. Kabariti provided a fresh sign that relations between Jordan and the Gulf Arab states were fast improving after a five-year strain caused by Amman's perceived tilt towards Baghdad during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Mr. Kabariti said he expected his meeting in Cairo later this week with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to be "open and optimistic."

The two men are meeting on the sidelines of a gathering of Arab League foreign ministers.

"We believe time has come to turn the page on the past. We are the two neighbours of Iraq who are most interested in its stability and the change of its regime....," Mr. Kabariti was quoted by Al Siyassah as saying.

Mr. Kabariti also said Gen. Kamel had deposited more than $30 million in a Jordanian bank.

Mr. Kabariti said General Kamel "needs political support rather than financial... he had deposited more than $30 million in a Jordanian bank."

It was not clear when the money was deposited.

Arafat, Peres strain for deal after row over map

TABA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres launched Wednesday a fifth straight day of negotiations, straining to wrap up a deal to extend autonomy across the West Bank.

Deespite the Herculean effort, officials on both sides were cautious about the possibility of completing an agreement quickly.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres, who made no statement, resumed their talks despite a Palestinian walk-out overnight over the carve-up of the territory into autonomous areas and Israeli-controlled zones.

"We have tough, hard work," said Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani. "We intend to do it and hopefully, we will have an agreement." But he admitted he did not know when.

A senior Israeli official who refused to be named predicted several more days of negotiation. "I don't think we expert to sign before next week," he said.

Control over Hebron remained the stumbling block to a long-delayed agreement to implement the second phase of autonomy — Israeli military redeployment outside Palestinian areas, transfer of civil powers and autonomy elections, which are more than 14 months behind schedule.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres launched the umpteenth round of their negotiations in the Red Sea resort of Taba on Saturday with the aim of signing the agreement at the White House in Washington on Thursday.

The PLO chairman stomped furiously out of the talks overnight Tuesday-Wednesday and ordered his delegates to follow him after an Israeli general produced a map with an Arab village cut in two "for security reasons."

"You talk like an occupier and this is a map of occupation," Mr. Arafat told Israeli General Ilan Biran, the commander of the central military region which includes the West Bank.

"You want to control the West Bank, then go on, control it," Mr. Arafat said.

From his room Mr. Arafat called Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and then U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to say he was leaving the negotiations.

But after phone calls from Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and U.S. coordi-

(Continued on page 7)

Study finds polarisation in Jordanian society, calls for official action to address the problem

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Democratisation and modernisation of Jordan's government system are the only effective solutions to the state of polarisation between Jordanians of East Bank origin and those with Palestinian roots, a study released Wednesday by the Centre of Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan said.

The study pointed out that a state of dichotomy exists between the Jordanians and Palestinians in the Kingdom and that nothing short of a complete overhaul of the system can protect national unity.

There is a consensus among the political and social circles that the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians must be treated through innovative approaches that take into account the uniqueness and particularities of society, said the study, which the centre presented as a sum-up of views that were offered by Jordanian and Palestinian experts at a rountable discussion held earlier this year.

The roundtable discussion followed a survey the centre had conducted on the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians.

"The survey concluded that there are a number of impediments that prevent the integration of the two communities and if certain policies are followed, the degree of integration will increase and the permanent disappearance of the impediments will be a question of time," said the study.

The study said that both communities have fears and suspicions which consolidate the state of polarisation between them.

It said Jordanians fear the increase of the number of Palestinians in Jordan, the domination of the economy by the Palestinians, dual loyalty among Palestinians and the lack of appreciation among Palestinians of the benefits of their belonging to Jordan.

Jordanians of Palestinian origin, said the study, are uncomfortable with the concentration of public sector jobs among East Bankers, government favourit-

(Continued on page 7)

Arms control group meets in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The working group on arms control and regional security set by the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process opened a two-day meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss the details of a projected regional security centre here as agreed on in earlier group meetings. The 18 delegates will discuss the centre, which is part of ongoing efforts to enhance security and stability in the region, according to Dr. Abdullah Touqan, head of the Jordanian delegation to the working group. He said the centre can also serve as a tool to corroborate mutual confidence between the countries of the region. He said there will be similar centres located in Qatar and Tunisia.

Israeli president visits Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Israel's President Ezer Weizman paid a brief visit Wednesday to the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, the symbol of the struggle for control over the city between Israelis and Palestinians. Surrounded by security agents, Mr. Weizman made no statement as he shook hands with Israeli settlers and children touring the fortified site.

Quake in Algeria causes light damage

ALGIERS (AFP) — An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the open-ended Richter scale shook the Mascara region of western Algeria at dawn Wednesday, causing some damage but no casualties, a scientific institute said. The quake's epicentre was around three kilometres from El Ghoumri, the Algerian centre for astrophysics and geophysics in Oran said. On Aug. 18 last year a quake measuring 5.6 left 172 people dead and 288 injured in the Mascara region.

Blast hits pro-Kurd office in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — An explosion rocked a building housing the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (HADEP) in Turkey's port city of Izmir on Wednesday, shattering windows but causing no injuries, local HADEP officials said. Turkish police said the early morning explosion in the three-storey building was caused by a leaky gas canister, but HADEP officials said a bomb had been placed outside the door. "For sure it was not a gas canister, it was a bomb," said a HADEP official who did not want to be named.

Turkey urges Greece to start dialogue

ANKARA (AP) — Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu on Wednesday urged Greece to step up efforts at solving long-standing disputes between the two neighbouring countries. Mr. Inonu told reporters that he had held various talks with Greek officials in the six months he has been in office, but said Greece had failed to indicate any readiness toward a dialogue. "This time, I hope we can make progress when we meet in New York on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly," Mr. Inonu said. The Turkish and Greek foreign ministers will meet in New York. Mr. Inonu added that the Greek parliament's recent ratification of a bill allowing Greece to extend its territorial waters in the Aegean from six miles to 12 miles had not helped to improve relations. "We have repeatedly said the move was unacceptable," Mr. Inonu said.

ARAB BANK

RIMAL - GAZA

ARAB BANK RIMAL - GAZA BRANCH ALREADY IN OPERATION

ARAB BANK
RIMAL - GAZA
P.O. BOX 1158
TEL. (7) 824729 / (7) 824739 FAX. (7) 824719

GAZA
P.O.Box 91
Tel: (7) 866288
Fax: (7) 820704

NABLUS
P.O.Box 38
Tel: (9) 382350 / 370022
Fax: (9) 382351

RAMALLAH
P.O.Box 1487
Tel: (2) 9954822/3
Fax: (2) 9954824

JERICHO
P.O.Box 152
Tel: (2) 9921310-17
Fax: (2) 9921318/19

BETHLEHEM
P.O.Box 537
Tel: (2) 6470080-7
Fax: (2) 6470088

Human rights minister visits Morocco's most notorious jail

KENITRA, Morocco (AFP) — Kenitra prison, Morocco's most infamous penitenciary, opened its gates to an unlikely VIP this week in the person of Human Rights Minister Mohammad Ziane, who wants to improve the lot of its 1,876 inmates.

On the occasion of an "open day" organised by Mr. Ziane, a few journalists were able for the first time to enter the prison whose sinister reputation, extends beyond Morocco's borders for having held within its walls many of the country's top opposition figures.

The prison was built around 1920 by the authorities of the French protectorate, on a hill a short distance from Kenitra 40 kilometres north of Rabat.

The facility, initially intended for between 700 and 800 prisoners, now holds more than twice that number, almost all of whom are serving long sentences.

Of the inmates, 40 have been sentenced to death and 114 are serving life terms.

The prison has five blocks, one for those on death row, another for the "lifers," another for those in solitary confinement, and so forth.

These sectors are connected by long corridors, which generations of prisoners have marked with their graffiti. Verses of the Koran mingle with advice or expressions of hope. "While there's life there's hope," one inmate had written.

The prisoners are held several dozen at a time in large cells or in cells of one, two or three men.

The "privilege" of a private cell is generally reserved for those with death or life sentences and for a few dozen Islamic militants who call themselves "political prisoners" — a term the authorities reject.

Just over a year ago, King Hassan II commuted the death sentences of about 200 prisoners into life terms. Since then the courts have sentenced 47 more prisoners to death, 40 of whom are at Kenitra.

Executions are rarely carried out in Morocco and only three have taken place since 1980.

The Islamic activists, who are generally better educated than the average inmate, are the most difficult. They complain constantly about the food, the level of medical care, mail "that never comes," the proximity of "common criminals" and the "little Berlin wall" which keeps them apart from visitors.

The administration says these complaints are unfounded with the exception of the ban on "direct contacts" with visitors which it defends on "security grounds." Prison staff said they were "doing their utmost" to improve conditions.

The main complaint of common law prisoners was that their sentences were too long. When news of Mr. Ziane's visit got around, scores of prisoners hastily scribbed their dolences on pieces of paper which they handed through the bars to the minister's aides. Most were appeals for a reduction in sentences.

Layouni, 49 but who looked at least 65, said he had been at Kenitra for 29 years without ever getting remission. "I've never killed anyone. All I did was to try to escape four times," he said.

Mr. Ziane took note and said his administration would do its best to handle all the complaints.

In the death cell block, Mr. Ziane turned to the only foreign prisoner, a Frenchman called Jackie Courreau, a former restaurant owner sentenced for a triple murder 11 years ago.

Iran suggests Paris host Algerian talks

PARIS (R) — France could pave the way for democratic elections in Algeria by organising peace talks for the violence-racked North American nation, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

"The French government could take the initiative to end the Algerian conflict which concerns all the countries of the Mediterranean," Mr. Velayati told the French catholic daily La Croix in an interview in Tehran.

"France, which enjoys a major influence in Algeria, could try to bring together the different opposition movements and encourage them to seek reconciliation with the government to prepare the way for elections and the formation of a democratic government," he said.

More than 40,000 people have died in fighting in Algeria since the military-backed government scrapped 1992 elections that Muslim fundamentalists were poised to win.

Mr. Velayati's suggestion was likely to fall on stony ground. In February, Algeria angrily rejected a proposal by former socialist French President Francois Mitterrand for a European Union-sponsored conference on Algeria.

Algeria, which won independence from France in 1962 after a war, denounced the Mr. Mitterrand proposal as interference in its internal affairs.

Mr. Mitterrand suggested a conference in Europe based in part on a platform for a ceasefire and democratic elections drafted in Rome by the main opposition parties including the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, but rejected by the Algerian government.

France is being careful not to stir up anti-French sentiment in Algeria. It believes extremists from Algeria are behind a wave of bombings in France that have killed seven people and injured more than 130.

Islamists accuse Paris of backing the Algerian government in its fight against them. Mr. Velayati denied charges that Iran backs the radical Armed Islamic Group.

Ciller to resign and seek new coalition

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said on Wednesday she was resigning and would launch an immediate attempt to form a new government.

"The thing to be done today is to start the search for a new government within the framework of democratic traditions... the country does not need an election — it needs a solution," she told reporters.

She made the announcement after talks with the junior partner in her coalition government broke down and its leader called for her to resign.

Deniz Baykal, the newly elected head of the social democratic Republican People's Party told reporters after meeting Ms. Ciller that their left-right coalition was "effectively finished" and that the prime minister should step down "to open the way for elections."

Mr. Baykal was elected head of his party at a convention on Sept. 10.

At the time he pledged to remain in the governing coalition despite grass-roots sentiments within his party that its social democratic ideas were being ignored by Ms. Ciller's dominant True Path Party and a steady loss of popular support through its inability to keep campaign promises.

"Under the present circumstances, what must be done is to bring forward the (general) election" planned for autumn 1996, Mr. Baykal said, adding that his party had not yet decided whether to leave the government.

In her first reaction to Baykal's statement Ciller let it be known that she did not wish to stand down and called for an immediate meeting of the full executive council of her party to discuss the future of the government.

General elections are now scheduled for the fall of 1996.

The main-opposition centre-right Motherland Party said on several occasions recently that it would extend its support to a minority government headed by Ms. Ciller.

"I am now going to Cankaya (the residence of president Suleyman Demirel) to hand in my resignation," Ms. Ciller told reporters.

Rage over Filipina's death verdict could harm appeal – UAE official

ABU DHABI (R) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) official has said the outrage over condemned Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan could hamper her efforts to win leniency in appeals courts.

"This (death sentence) decision is not at all final. The door is still open. My fear is that if these strong reactions continue it won't help in keeping leniency," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters.

A UAE Islamic court on Saturday sentenced Sarah Balabagan to death for killing her employer Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi. It rejected her plea that she stabbed him 34 times in self-defence after he raped her.

Ms. Balabagan's case has sparked an uproar in the Philippines similar to that which swept through the country in March when another Filipina maid, Flor Contemplacion, was hanged for double murder in Singapore.

Philippines President Fidel Ramos is sending three top ministers to the UAE to try to save her from execution.

As the government scrambled to save Ms. Balabagan, some Filipino officials lashed out at the court's decision. A member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said the maid had been "set up for the gallows" to protect the reputation of her employer she had accused of rape.

"These types of statements can only hurt the matter. Manila is sending a delegation. This should not be done with the background of pressure," said the UAE official.

"There are no shouts of rage from UAE nationals. It was reported in the press without outrageous reactions. An old man has been killed and she is being portrayed as this poor 16-year-old girl who is innocent. It's as if she has already been executed," he added.

The maid, her lawyers, and Philippines officials say Ms. Balabagan is 16 but the UAE says she is 27, based on documents Philippines officials say were forged.

Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, one of the officials who will fly to Abu Dhabi to appeal for Ms. Balabagan's release, urged Filipinos not to react the way they did when they burned Singaporean flags after Contemplacion was hanged.

The UAE Federal Supreme Court must endorse any death sentence even if the defendant does not file an appeal. Execution must be approved by President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the Justice Ministry said.

The ministry has defended the death sentence.

Sheikh Zayed ordered a retrial after the same Al 'Ain court sentenced Ms. Balabagan in June to seven years imprisonment for manslaughter. It also found she had been raped and awarded her financial compensation.

Ms. Balabagan's chief lawyer said he has filed a notice of appeal and planned to file a formal one in the coming days.

Ms. Balabagan urged the Philippines to pray for her in an emotional telephone conversation with her mother on Tuesday, an embassy official said after seeing her in prison.

Mass PoW graves found in Al Arish

CAIRO (R) — Egyptians said they had identified two mass graves in which Israeli troops buried unarmed Egyptian prisoners-of-war (PoWs) during the Middle East war of 1967.

An expedition to the Sinai peninsula, organised by the government newspaper Al Ahram and guided by eyewitnesses to the alleged events, found human bones in shallow graves at an air base and a desert valley near the coastal town of Al Arish.

But a report on the expedition, published in the newspaper on Wednesday, said they did not find any complete skeletons. It attributed this to erosion and natural decay.

The fate of the prisoners-of-war has become a bone of contention in Egyptian-Israeli relations since an Israeli military historian alleged last month that Israelis killed some 300 Egyptian prisoners in the 1967 war.

The Egyptian government is demanding an investigation and possibly a trial. Israel says it cannot try people for crimes committed more than 20 years ago.

Former Sergeant Abdul Salam Musa, the expedition's guide to the air base grave five kilometres from Al Arish, said he was in a group of Egyptian prisoners who saw the Israelis shoot other prisoners by firing squad on June 7, 1967.

"I saw a line of prisoners, civilians and military, and they opened fire at them all at once. When they were dead they told us to bury them," he said.

In Midan Valley 27 kilometres from Al Arish, bedouins showed the expedition the site where they said Israelis troops killed 30 unarmed Egyptian prisoners-of-war.

One of the bedouins, Sheikh Suleiman Moghnem Salama, said: "Lorries arrived loaded with troops. One of them stopped and more than 30 Egyptian soldiers got out and the Jews opened fire at them with machineguns a few metres from the asphaly road." The bedouins then buried the prisoners, he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish prisons hold 9,000 PKK activists

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Some 9,000 Kurdish members of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) are currently imprisoned in Turkey, up from around 900 two years ago, Interior Minister Nahit Mentese said Tuesday. His statement, came at the opening of an international conference on drugs in Istanbul. Mr. Mentese said the rapid rise in the numbers of those detained and convicted was creating problems in Turkish prisons. He did not elaborate. The PKK has been in armed revolt against Ankara since 1984 in the mainly Kurdish eastern and southeastern Anatolia. The conflict between the two sides is estimated to have cost the lives of 20,000 people in all.

Iran slams nuclear testing

VIENNA (AFP) — Iran sharply criticised countries continuing to conduct nuclear tests on Tuesday, in a statement released on the second day of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting in Vienna. Like other participants who have condemned testing, M.R. Amrollahi, the Iranian vice-president, did not mention any countries by name. However, only France and China have conducted nuclear tests in recent months. "The present race between certain nuclear-weapon states to undertake nuclear tests has regrettably led to perpetuating tensions in the world community," he told the assembly. Such tests also are "a clear indication of the determination of nuclear-weapons states to... enhance their nuclear arsenals," he added. The Iranian delegate's comments came the day after 11 Pacific rim nations offered a similar rebuke at the IAEA conference in the form of a resolution deploring nuclear tests. Mr. Amrollahi called for the cessation of all tests to smooth the way towards the hoped-for signing of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty next year. He also criticised the continuing refusal of Israel to adhere to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and complained about U.S. assistance in developing Israel's nuclear technology.

Lawyer warns university to remove 'heretic' professor

CAIRO (AFP) — An Islamic lawyer on Tuesday filed an official warning to Cairo University to ban from teaching a professor convicted of heresy, legal officials said. Abdul Halim Mandur addressed the warning to the head of Cairo University calling for the "removal of Nasser Hamed Abu Zeid from his teaching post and the banning of all his books and writing," they said. Mr. Mandur added that if Abu Zeid was not removed he would take the university to court. Legal sources said issuing the warning, which was also formally filed against President Hosni Mubarak and his prime minister, was a necessary first step to winning a court ruling for Dr. Abu Zeid's removal. In June a Cairo appeals court ruled that the Arab professor was an "apostate" from Islam based on his scholarly writings and ordered his divorce from his wife on the grounds that a Muslim cannot be married to a heretic.

Israel frees Jew who killed Arab in 1984

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel freed an Israeli Jew on Tuesday, sentenced to life in prison for killing an Arab in a 1984 rocket attack on a Jerusalem bus, an official said. David Ben-Shimol, 29, smiled as he walked out of a prison in central Israel 11 years after he fired an anti-tank rocket at an Arab bus carrying some 50 passengers to Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, killing one and wounding 10. A court ordered him jailed for life for the killing and for a grenade attack on an Arab restaurant in which 19 people were wounded but his term was commuted twice by former Israeli President Chaim Herzog. A spokesman for Israel's prison authority said he was released on Tuesday after a justice ministry committee reduced his prison term to 11 years for good behaviour.

Lebanon takes delivery of U.S. army vehicles

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese army on Tuesday took delivery of 170 U.S. armoured and military vehicles, Lebanese officials said. The goods were handed over by the U.S. military attache to Lebanon, Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Grimitt, after they arrived in Beirut port, the official agency ANI said. The equipment was from U.S. stocks in Germany and was handed over for a symbolic price as part of U.S. military aid to Lebanon, which resumed in 1994 after being suspended for 10 years because of the 1975-1990 civil war. In July the United States handed over 16 transport helicopters for the symbolic price of $1.5 million. Lorries, jeeps and lifting gear worth a total of $11 million has also been supplied at one-tenth of its cost. The Lebanese army dissolved into religious factions in February 1984, but in 1991 its 50,000 soldiers were reunified and reorganised into multi-faith brigades under the command of General Emile Lahud.

Tunisia optimistic on Mideast bank project

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia said Tuesday he was increasingly optimistic about the Mideast and North Africa development bank proposed a year ago at the regional summit in Casablanca. "I'm more hopeful at this time that something will come out of Amman in the way of a regional financial institution," Mr. Ben Yahia referring to the upcoming summit in Jordan Oct. 29-31. But he acknowledged before a meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher that there were "diverging views on how to make this institution work." The idea from the bank came from the United States but European countries had preferred not to add to existing structures, such as the World Bank. Other countries likely to be turned to for the bulk of the bank's capital, such as Saudi Arabia, have been hesitant. The Casablanca summit decided to set up a group of experts to study the possible roles of the future bank. The group, which was named in January, recently met in Rome and another meeting is expected Oct. 6-7 in Washington.

Peace prevails in Kabul, but fear of war rides high

By Ian Stewart
The Associated Press

KABUL — Many shell-shocked residents in the Afghan capital fear the glimmer of peace they've enjoyed for six months could soon fall victim to a civil war that has already claimed more than 25,000 lives.

In the mountain passes and villages south and west of Kabul, gunmen from the Taliban faction, a student-led militia, have been readying for a new offensive on Kabul.

"A day or two at the most," Defence Ministry spokesman known only as Abdullah told the Associated Press on Monday. "The Talibans have brought in reinforcements, their morale is high, but to break our security belt (around Kabul) at any point will be a very difficult situation."

With the war rhetoric in Kabul reaching a feverish pitch, a sort of psychological assault already has been launched on the city's population.

Rumours are twisted into fact and the truth is next to impossible to glean from the myriad of tales of impending battle.

The Talibans, in an ominous warning to foreigners to evacuate the city, expressed resounding confidence of victory.

The government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani has assured residents the Talibans will not breach the city's outer most defence, but says the battle is soon in coming.

After surviving more than two years of relentless rocket volleys, mortar fire and urban guerrilla warfare, Kabul's estimated 750,000 residents earlier this year began to rebuild their lives and their homes, the vast majority of which lie in piles of rubble on block after city block.

"People are again coming out of doors," said Sultan Malikyar, a vegetable merchant. "Even though almost everything we had has been ruined, without fighting we can at least have hope."

Mr. Malikyar, 47, fled Kabul in 1994 after his son was killed in a rocket attack in a southeastern district.

After navigating the bandit and war riddled refugee route to the eastern city of Jalalabad, Mr. Malikyar languished for months in a squalid camp with little more than a plastic tent as shield against the searing Afghan desert sun.

He, along with tens of thousands of Kabul residents, have returned to their homes with the hope of rebuilding, a hope seemingly destined to clash with the wills of military and rebel warriors preparing to once again to bring war to the city.

The Talibans, which only swept into the Afghan fray late last year, quickly became the government's most serious threat, having captured more than a third of the country and most recently toppling the key western city of Herat.

Their stunning success coupled with the fact that in Kabul the Talibans remain cloaked in mystery, rumour and myth, has city residents on edge and watching every move very closely.

"We hear so many things about the Talibans, first they were heroes, then fundamentalists and now terrorists," Jaleel Ahmad said, glancing over his shoulder as he speaks, a nervous habit picked up after living through months of Afghanistan's fratricidal bloodshed.

Ahmad, a student hoping to return to university before too long, slowly wanters through one of Kabul's rejuvenated markets.

Shops, for so long shuttered and sealed, have begun to reopen. A bright, newly painted blue and white sign welcomes visitors into Akbar's Cookies and Cakes shop.

A modest but healthy trade is returning to Kabul, once one of Central Asia's most vibrant centres.

What remains uncertain for many who have gambled on peace in Kabul, is how long will calm prevail.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
13:00 Iris — The Happy Professor
13:15 ... Fireman Sam
13:30 ... My Secret Identity
14:00 ... NBA
15:00 ... Bill Eye the Science Guy
15:30 ... Take Your Pick
16:00 ... Dead Men's Tales
16:20 ... I Witness Video
17:00 Children's Programme — Rahan
17:30 ... Varieties and Game Show
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Court Metrage — vision
19:30 ... News Headlines
19:35 ... National Geographic
20:30 ... The Album Show
21:15 ... Murder She Wrote
22:00 ... News in English
22:25 ... Feature film
23:59 ... Shogun
00:30 ... Perfect Stranger

PRAYER TIMES
05:00 ... Fajr
06:18 ... (Sunrise) Duha
12:29 ... Dhuhr
15:57 ... 'Asr
18:39 ... Maghreb
19:57 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly but remaining below average with winds northwesterly to northeasterly moderate.
Temperatures are expected to rise further on Friday becoming around average. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman ... 17/29
Aqaba ... 23/36
Deserts ... 15/32
Jordan Valley ... 22/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26 Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhles Mazahrah ... 820425
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour ... 699440
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ... 649028
Dr. Salman Al Daboubi ... 776751
Firas pharmacy ... 661912
Ferdows pharmacy ... 778336
Al Asema pharmacy ... 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy ... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy ... 657660
Nairoujh pharmacy ... 623672
Najib pharmacy ... 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu ... 279773
Al Quds pharmacy ... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Harzallah ... 988075
Khalifeh pharmacy ... 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ... 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade ... 617101
Blood Bank ... 775121
Highway Police ... 843402
Traffic Police ... 896390
Public Security Department ... 630321
Hotel Complaints ... 605800
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints ... 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints ... 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television ... 773111
Radio Jordan ... 774111
Water Authority ... 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company ... 636381
RJ Flight Information ... 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362
Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ... 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 845845
Al-Mussher Hospital ... 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali ... 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, 8Marka ... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ... 602240/50
Amal Hospital ... 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ... 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ... (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:30 ... Aden (RJ)
08:00 ... Dhahran (RJ)
08:15 ... Sanaa (RJ)
09:00 ... New Delhi (RJ)
10:00 ... Riyadh (RJ)
10:35 ... Beirut (RJ)
10:35 ... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 ... Colombo (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:50 ... London (RJ)
18:30 ... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
19:15 ... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:10 ... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:15 ... Athens (RJ)
20:00 ... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:40 ... Rome (RJ)
00:15 ... Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:00 ... Doha (Q7)
13:40 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:00 ... Riyadh (SV)
17:00 ... Rome (AZ)
18:45 ... Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:35 ... Cairo (MS)
21:00 ... Dubai (EK)
21:10 ... Beirut (ME)
00:50 ... London (KJ)
01:10 ... Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:40 ... Beirut (RJ)
11:25 ... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:15 ... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
12:15 ... Rome (RJ)
12:30 ... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 ... Paris (RJ)
13:10 ... Cairo (RJ)
13:25 ... Athens (RJ)
13:25 ... London (RJ)
20:35 ... Larnaca (RJ)
21:45 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:20 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00 ... Dubai (RJ)
04:00 ... Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:45 ... Beirut (ME)
14:30 ... Damascus, Doha (Q7)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30 ... Riyadh (SV)
21:25 ... Cairo (MS)
22:00 ... Dubai (EK)
02:35 ... Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	600/400
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620-
Cabbage	150/80
Carrot	420/320
Cauliflower	240/40
Cucumbers (large)	150/120
Cucumbers (small)	300/200
Eggplant	250/150
Figs	320/250
Garlic	700/500
Grapes	750/600
Guava	650/500
Lemon	300/200
Marrow (large)	300/200
Marrow (small)	450/350
Mulukhia	140/80
Okra	850/700
Onion (dry)	240/180
Orange	480/380
Peaches	1000/800
Pepper (hot)	220/150
Pepper (sweet)	200/150
Pomegranate	340/250
Potato	270/170
String Beans	650/500
Tomato	120/80
Water Melon	110/70

Zarqa women speak 'Words with Meaning'

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — In the heart of throbbing downtown Zarqa, about 20 kilometres south east of Amman, a group of young unemployed women rehearse "Words With Meaning," a play about the grim realities and experiences of their lives.

"Words With Meaning" is a play that six young women will stage Saturday at the Islamic Cultural Society with the support of CARE International in Jordan, an international organisation that supports women empowerment projects.

But "Words with Meaning" is not simply a play. It is a record of the difficult episodes in the lives of the women who will perform the play to an exclusively women audience.

"My brother runs my life. I am insulted and I am denied all my rights to work and socialise." These are some of the words that Wisam will say as part of her role on stage on Saturday.

"These women will use this play as a tool to send a message to the world, about their lives and concerns," said Lubna Izzeddin, coordinator of the Youth Project under which the Zarqa women are working.

The overall objective of the project is to empower women with the skills and confidence to play a leading role in determining how they want to run their lives and achieve financial independence.

But before sending these women to the market through small ventures that CARE will finance, the project, called Social and Economic Self-Sufficiency for Disadvantaged Youth in Jordan, is focusing on building the women's self confidence through exposing them to different situations in which they will have to deal with people.

Ms. Izzeddin said that the project helps disadvantaged women "discover themselves" by talking about different issues, and also gives them a chance to engage in several activities that contribute to the enhancement of their knowledge about the social and economic aspects of life.

The six participants in a scene from the play "Words with Meaning"

"They have the complete freedom to choose any topic that can be socially addressed such as handicaps and other issues," she added.

The play is part of these activities which is geared towards building these women's self confidence.

The women's needs were decided through the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) course which was implemented among other activities identified as Introductory Activities for Unemployed Youth in Zarqa City.

The PRA also decided on specific issues to be addressed, using different tools such as maps, interviews and field research.

"During the course, they visited some organisations where they had to interview people and inquire about several issues," she said.

Ms. Izzeddin added that those activities will enhance the beneficiaries' communication skills as well as prepare them psychologically in dealing with the community.

"At the beginning, we were afraid of talking to strangers. This eventually changed and we went to places we never dreamt of visiting," said Jumana, a participant in the project.

The course, she said, has helped the women get rid of their fears of dealing directly with people.

So did participation in other activities such as the "Clean up the World campaign, organised by the Jordan Environment Society in Amman, which strengthened the women's involvement with the community.

"This campaign has contributed to the enhancement of their organisational skills and encouraged their involvement with the community," said Ms. Izzeddin.

The participants recognised the benefits of the activities in which the project has involved them.

"The play is helping us develop our self-confidence", said one woman.

Ms. Izzeddin said the play, which tackles social and psychological problems, also reflects the women's dreams and hopes for the future.

The director of the play, Aziz Khayoun, said that "Words With Meaning," is not aimed at creating professional actresses out of these women.

It is basically geared towards developing their personalities through building their self confidence, he said.

Ms. Izzeddin said Zarqa was chosen for the project because of the city's high population, unemployment and crime rates and because it has many reported abused and disadvantaged women.

She said that the last phase of the project will be to help those women decide on small scale ventures that would generate income as well as provide them with social and psychological satisfaction.

"The women became more independent, more sure of themselves and are looking forward to achieving their financial independence," said Ms. Izzeddin, who stressed that the activities the project organises are sensitive to the women's social standards.

"Before joining this project, I was afraid of men to the extent that I would change the bus if my seat was next to a man's seat," Wisam said.

She added that the project not only helped her get rid of her fears, it also created an attachment towards her colleagues and coordinator.

"I cannot let a day pass without attending the sessions here," she said.

Ms. Izzeddin said that by the end of this project feasibility studies and market research will be conducted with funding from CARE to ensure the success of the projects that the women will set up.

Once these ventures are chosen, CARE will provide the women with the necessary training to help them run their businesses successfully.

"Upon choosing a project, we will determine the kind of skills they will be taught," said the coordinator.

Ms. Izzeddin said the success of the youth project in Zarqa has encouraged CARE to carry future expansion plans.

The next step will be to design similar projects for disadvantaged young men while the current project will be expanded to include hearing-impaired women.

Confidence withdrawal motion referred to Higher Council

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament has requested that the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution determine the constitutionality of a member of parliament's right to demand a vote of confidence during an extraordinary session of the chamber.

The reason for the request is that a group of deputies, during the extraordinary session which adjourned last Monday, requested that the House withdraw confidence from Minister of Justice Hisham Tell for what they termed was his mishandling of the case of 23 supreme court judges who had submitted their resignations, and for his accusation that the judges' move was politically motivated.

Informed parliamentary sources said that the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution will hold a session early next week to examine the case.

Sixteen deputies of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party had requested that parliament hold a vote of confidence session, but a debate held later ended with 48 out of 71 present deputies voting for referring the subject to the council for its views on the issue.

According to the sources, decisions made by the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution are binding to all parties.

The council, chaired by Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi groups eight members, of whom three are members of the senate, and its decisions are passed by a majority of six votes.

Meanwhile, it was announced Wednesday that Mr. Srour will leave Amman Friday for Pyong Yang at the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation on a visit to North Korea lasting several days.

During the official visit Mr. Srour and his party will hold a series of meetings with North Korean officials to discuss international affairs and issues of common concern.

Jordan established diplomatic relations with North Korea in 1977 and in 1979 they signed the first trade agreement between them.

Islamic party condemns killings in Algeria

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Arab Islamic Democratic Movement (Dua'a) Wednesday issued a statement condemning the indiscriminate killing of people, mainly journalists in Algeria, and accusing the perpetrators as being agents in the pay of foreign nations.

In its statement, Dua'a said that the wave of assassinations against the Algerian people, particularly journalists, is carried out by a "deviasionist group" which has chosen the path of bloodshed and destruction."

The statement condemned the killing of innocent people and expressed solidarity with bereaved families.

The "murderous group", the statement said, responsible for the tragedies is funded and trained abroad and takes its instructions from parties bent on causing destruction to Algeria and its people and harming the Islamic religion which bans acts of killings, violence and terrorism and preaches tolerance and respect of other people's views.

The statement charged that this group enjoys backing from neo-colonialist nations which harbour hostile designs against the Arab World.

Some estimates have put the death toll after three years of strife in Algeria at more than 30,000.

In its satement Dua'a called for an end to the cycle of violence and strife and urged all groups in Algeria to opt for dialogue towards reconciliation and peace.

The statement urged the Algerian government to open the door for dialogue with the various political groups and factions in order to reach a settlement and end the bloodshed.

Dua'a particularly voices its solidarity with the Algerian journalists who are the main targets of the criminal group, the statement said.

American, Jordanian businessmen discuss investment, trade

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the US-Arab National Chamber of Commerce led by Richard Holmes Wednesday held discussions on trade and investments with the Chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Haidar Murad and board members.

Mr. Holmes told his hosts that his group, representing various trade sectors that were affiliated to 400 American companies in the United States, were authorised to pave the ground for Jordanian-American schemes.

Mr. Holmes urged businessmen from the United States and Jordan to build "a solid basis of cooperation for the future."

Mr. Holmes and his group first listened to Mr. Murad outlining the main duties of the federation which groups 14 chambers of commerce serving 70, 000 companies in the Kingdom.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference is expected to focus on the potential and the role of the private sector and its cooperation with foreign investors in Jordan and in the region as a whole, Mr. Murad said.

In light of that, he added, the federation is ready to facilitate investment ventures in Jordan.

Mr. Murad called on American businessmen to consider launching joint ventures with Jordanian businessmen as part of U.S. contribution to sustaining peace and stability in the Middle East.

Following the meeting with Mr. Murad, the American delegation met with Asem Hindawi, director general of the department for encouraging investments, to bear about the department's activities and the types of incentives on offer for foreign investors.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SWISS CULTURAL WEEK

Films

*Anna Golden-"The Last Witch" and "Off Season"(with subtitles in Arabic) at 5.00pm and 8.00pm at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday.

*"Always and Forever" and "The Mountain" (with Arabic subtitles) at 5.00pm and 8.00pm at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday.

Entertainment

* An evening with Dimitri, the loveable clown, at the Royal Cultural 8:00 p.m respectively at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC)

Exhibitions

* Two photography exhibitions: "Swiss photographers since 1840 until today," and "Face to Face with Switzerland," at the RCC.

POETRY RECITAL and MONO-DRAMA

*By Tunisian poet Al Munsif Al Mazani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Arts, Gardens St., on Thursday at 7.00pm.

* "The Great Death" (In Arabic)at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Friday at 7.00pm.

FILM

*"The Candidate" at the American Cultural Centre on Thursday at 5.00pm

LECTURE

*"The History and Status of the Distinguished Relations between Syria and Lebanon" by George Dil at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation on Thursday at 6.30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fountaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

* Paintings by Sudanese artists at Baladna Art Gallery.

* "Beneath the Waves," photographs on Aqaba underwater life by Julia Reinholt at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

DARAT AL FUNUN

*Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery. * Photography of Jordan, 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House. * Painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House. * 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Bacha and Joranian artist Ali Bermamet * Open Air Sculpture workshop.* Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF H.R.H.
Princess Basma Bint Talal
THE JORDANIAN SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
IN COOPERATION WITH
HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL JORDAN
PRESENTS GALA DINNER
WITH THE SPECTACULAR
CREATIVE MAGICIAN
Christoph Von Gonschor
IN
Dreams of Illusion
ON SUNDAY 24/9/1995
AT 8:00 P.M.
TICKETS ARE SOLD AT THE
HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL
JORDAN

MATINEE SHOWS WILL ALSO BE HELD
ON 26 & 27/9/1995 AT 5:00 P.M.
TICKETS ARE SOLD AT:
THE HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL JORDAN
TEL: 641361 EXT. 2222 & AT: 615830-615831
ALSO AT: AHLIA ABELLA SUPERSTORE, SAFEWAY, C-TOWN, JORDAN SUPERMARKET, FROSTI, MILANO RESTAURANT, KAREMAN BOUTIQUE

Don't miss...
...the Swiss!
at the
Rozena Inn

For reservations call 613 572

Furnished Apartment for Rent in Abdoun
Ground floor, 220 m², big garden, private Phone, Separate entrance two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, spacious salon, sitting and dining room.
For more information call 816841

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
Independent first floor apartment with garden and independent garage, consisting of 2 bedrooms, spacious kitchen guest room, sitting & dining room, maid's room, glassed-in veranda, independent central heating with telephone. Very good furniture.
Please call: 665711, 664256

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Powell praises Christian right

WASHINGTON (R) — Saying the "pilot light" on his U.S. presidential bid may be lit, Colin Powell praised the Republican Party's Christian right Tuesday and said "their efforts to make America shape up ought to be applauded."

In an interview at his Spartan office just outside Washington, the retired four-star general said the choice on whether to run for president will be the toughest decision of his life, but said he could add qualities to the race that others — including Republican frontrunner Bob Dole — lack.

The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who has kept his political views a closely guarded matter during his 35-year-long military career, also indicated that if he did run he would have no trouble finding a home in the Republican Party.

Gen. Powell said the American people had turned off President Bill Clinton because he promised one kind of leadership and ideology and delivered another, and called Sen. Dole a man with a vision who would bring "many decades and years of experience as a legislator to an executive position."

"I am someone who believes in this country, is dedicated to it and who knows how to get things done," Gen. Powell said. "I know how to solve problems. I am considered a facilitator, someone who knows how to bridge differences, who can bring people opposed to each other together to find a compromise."

Despite criticism from conservatives and especially rightwing Christians on his support of abortion rights, gun control and affirmative action programmes, Gen. Powell said he supported family values as "strongly as anybody in the Christian Coalition."

He added, "I think the Christian right and the Christian Coalition ought to be applauded for their efforts to make America shape up again and start concentrating on the family and restoring the nuclear family and putting structure back in our schools."

The first black to be named America's top soldier described himself as having "lived a life of family values." He said his only difference with the Christian right was on questions of legislative goals.

He said that many Republicans he had been in contact with would not go as far in legislative goals as the Christian right. He called the party much broader than it has been painted in the press.

But he cautioned Republicans not to be seen in the black community as sending a message of harshness and lack of understanding on such issues as welfare reform.

Gen. Powell has said he would not make up his mind on whether to run for president until after his tour to promote his autobiography My American Journey ends in October. Then he said he would decide if he has "the fire in his belly" to undergo such an ordeal.

Asked if he was feeling the start of such a fire, Gen. Powell smiled broadly and said, "there may be a pilot light burning."

He added so far in his book tour he has signed 5,500 books in two days and 7,200 bookplates and was receiving advice from former Vice President Dan Quayle on what to do to avoid writer's cramp.

He said that the advice was simple — move the wrist in signing a book, not the fingers.

Armed with little more than a saucepan and spoon, a man demonstrates his solidarity with other protestors in Kiev demanding the overthrow of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and his government. The demonstration by pensioners and veterans took place in front of the parliament building and was aimed at promoting their demand for an increase in pensions and improvement of social rights (AFP photo)

Ukraine blasts call for CIS unity

KIEV (R) — A top Ukrainian official Tuesday blasted Russian President Boris Yeltsin's latest call to unify foreign and defence policy in the former Soviet Union as Moscow and the West grow more supicious of each other.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk's criticism of Mr. Yeltsin's appeal, published last week, highlighted the diplomatic chasm between the United States and Russia and its allies in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"Any international grouping can only develop with the consent of its own members," Mr. Tarasyuk told a news conference.

"It is difficult to imagine an organisation which would take actions and integrate on the basis of decrees issued by the leader of one of its states."

From the very inception of the CIS on the ashes of the Soviet Union, Russia has tried to set up concrete structures within the 12-nation group and play a big role in policy-making.

Russia is generally backed by Belarus and Kazakhstan. Ukraine, supported by Moldova, Azerbaijan and some Central Asian states, has led opposition to all forms of political and military integration, while backing economic cooperation.

Mr. Yeltsin's plan did not suggest Moscow would put any direct pressure on its neighbours. But it said Russia's main aim was "to create an integrated economic and political grouping of states able to claim a worthy place in the world community".

This included expanding on a 1992 defence pact to set up a system of collective security. Russia, the document said, would seek agreement from CIS members "from joining unions and blocs aimed against those states".

Patrolling of borders was the "joint concern" of member states and Russia would "persistently and consistently urge our partners to work out common positions on international issues and coordinating actions on the world stage".

Belarus, whose President Alexander Lukashenko held talks in Moscow Tuesday, predictably backed the initiative.

"This was elaborated at a time when key questions have arisen. Who lost the cold war? Who won? Is one country trying to dominate world politics?" Mr. Lukashenko's spokesman Vladimir Zametalin told Reuters.

"We believe the CIS countries should have identical views on what is happening in the world."

This month, Mr. Yeltsin has denounced NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb targets and said any attempt to expand NATO could spark confrontation and even a new war in Europe.

Ukrainian officials tried to calm some of the waters by suggesting NATO expansion was unrealistic, but proceeded with its own plan to boost cooperation with the Atlantic alliance.

Ill-feeling was also partly assuaged by talks in Moscow led by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

But tension was stoked by a grenade attack by unknown assailants on the U.S. embassy in Moscow last week and the downing by the Belarussian military of a racing balloon in which two American pilots were killed.

U.S. officials have angrily denounced Belarussian suggestions that the two Americans, the Swiss organisers of the race and the Polish military shared the blame for the balloon incident.

Mr. Talbott suggested Tuesday the West had to be prepared for a pessimistic scenario over Russia's future.

"There is a great uncertainty about the future in the East...and we have to be prepared for the worst even as we do everything we can to bring about the best," he told a Polish radio station.

"But it would be a huge mistake to assume that the more pessimistic scenario will necessarily come true," he said.

Kashmir gunbattle leaves 6 dead, hostage talks 'progressing'

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — A gunbattle between Muslim militants and Indian troops left six people dead here Wednesday as Indian officials said negotiations with the kidnappers of four Western tourists were "progressing."

Three Muslim militants, two civilians and a paramilitary trooper were killed in the clash between at least a dozen heavily armed Muslim militants and border guards in Lal Bazaar, a suburb of this Kashmir summer capital, police said.

The firefight erupted Tuesday evening after troops sealed off Lal Bazaar prior to a raid on a hideout of the Muslim separatist group Harkat-Ul-Ansar, police said.

A spokesman for the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF), which conducted the operation, said the militants had been urged to surrender.

"They opened fire instead," said BSF spokesman Rajinder Main.

The fighting raged into Wednesday afternoon with Muslim guerrillas using AK-47 assault rifles and grenades and Indian troops responding with mortars, machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades, police and witnesses said.

"It's war," said Mohamad Shafi, who was trapped in his home by the fighting along with a number of other residents of the area. Intermittent gunfire and explosions could be heard as Mr. Shafi spoke to AFP by telephone.

Police said a 65-year-old resident of the area and his son had been killed in crossfire while the fighting left one BSF trooper dead and three injured, including an officer.

Three Muslim guerrillas believed to be Afghans were also killed and their bodies taken to a police station, where they were displayed to reporters.

Dozens of Afghans are fighting alongside Kashmiri Muslim militants in the northern Indian state. Police said a fire started during the clash had razed three houses but fire trucks had been unable to reach the scene to extinguish the blaze because of stray bullets.

BSF troops cordoned off the area to conduct a house-to-house search for militants while a helicopter hovered overhead to prevent guerrillas from escaping, police said.

Residents of Lal Bazaar and surrounding neighbourhoods burned tyres in the streets and erected barricades in an attempt to impede the security forces and demonstrate their support for the militants, witnesses said.

Russia steps up efforts to improve ties with China

MOSCOW (R) — Russia, its relations with the West under strain, will turn its attention to improving ties with Beijing Thursday during a visit by Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Mr. Qian's visit, intended to set up a trip by President Boris Yeltsin to China, continues an intensification of contacts between Beijing and Moscow designed to keep up the momentum in improving relations after years of confrontation.

"The period of confrontation lasted 25 years and neither side won from it. Both sides suffered a great deal," Grigory Logvinov, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's First Asia Department, told Reuters in an interview.

"Now our friendship, good neighbourliness and mutually beneficial cooperation meet the national interests of both Russia and China. This understanding allows us to look at prospects quite confidently."

During a three-day visit Mr. Qian will hold talks in Moscow with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin before leaving for a session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

He will not see President Yeltsin, who is on holiday, but Mr. Logvinov said his meetings could agree the agenda and a date for the Kremlin leader to travel to China later this year.

Ties between Peking and Moscow, former Communist enemies who almost went to war during border clashes in 1969, have warmed since former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's breakthrough visit to China in 1988.

Mr. Yeltsin visited China in December 1992, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev was there in April 1994 and Mr. Chernomyrdin visited in June 1994. Mr. Kozyrev went to Peking last March.

Mr. Qian visited Russia last September, President Jiang Zemin attended Moscow's celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe last May and Premier Li Peng was in Moscow last June.

Both sides present glowing reports of their meetings at a time when their relations with the United States are difficult.

Russia is angered by NATO's plans to expand eastwards and by U.S.-led NATO air strikes in Bosnia. China's relations with the United States are strained by Washington's attacks on Beijing's human rights record and rows over Taiwan.

Thai king orders more measures as floods kill 100

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej has called for additional measures to prevent flooding in Bangkok, including the clearing of derelict canals and the installation of pumps to drain floodwaters to the sea.

The king's advice to city authorities, carried live on television, came as the death toll from flooding since early July across much of Thailand rose to nearly 100, provincial officials said Wednesday.

The Meteorological Department has forecast further heavy rains in all regions.

King Bhumibol, in a meeting late Tuesday with Bangkok Governor Krisda Arunvongse Na Ayutthaya, Irrigation Department officials and police, warned of the economic and social costs of extensive flooding in the capital.

The king criticised the construction of flood barriers around Bangkok, which he said could lead to the inundation of communities on the wrong side of them.

He also criticised the government promise to compensate flood victims, saying the offer of money served only to frighten and dishearten people. Preventative measures should be taken instead of curative ones, he said.

Neglected canals connecting the city to the sea, 25 kilometres to the south, should be excavated and enlarged and a basin prepared near the sea, he said.

Extra pumps should be installed as quickly as possible to drain the Sump area, he said.

The king's advice on flood prevention marked the second time he has recommended action to solve pressing problems in recent weeks.

Last month, the king rebuked government ministers responsible for Bangkok's traffic problems for politicising the issue and failing to come up with proper solutions.

Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa told reporters Wednesday he would heed the king's advice on flood prevention immediately and called emergency meetings to implement the recommendations.

There have been flood-related deaths in 19 provinces with the central province of Pichit the worst hit with 14 deaths.

The flooding has also caused extensive damage to farmland and an estimated five per cent of the country's main rice crop has been lost, government officials said this week.

Authorities said the flood threat to Bangkok would be critical early next week when the volume of water flowing through the city's Chao Phraya River, which drains most of the flood-hit provinces, meets high tides from the Gulf of Thailand.

Ferry runs aground off French coast

CALAIS, France (AP) — A car ferry was being towed the rest of the way to this French port city Wednesday after running aground in English Channel waters, stranding its 245 passengers and crew but causing no injuries.

The Stena Challenger, en route to Calais from Dover, England, ran aground at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday on a beach just off Calais, channel safety officials said.

The ferry's 172 passengers and 73 crew members were unharmed, and no evacuation was needed, officials said. Tugboats stood by overnight, awaiting the morning high tide so they could tow the ferry the rest of the way into the harbour.

The vessel was flying a British flag but is owned by Stena Line, a Swedish maritime company. It had reached the harbour at about 11 p.m. and was waiting for clearance to proceed further when it began running into trouble.

"Probably as a result of a technical problem such as a motor breakdown," the ferry drifted toward the coastline and into shallow waters, propelled by strong winds, harbourmaster spokesman Maurice Evain told the Associated Press.

The captain then dropped anchor and called for help, the spokesman said. The skipper was identified only as a Mr. Jones, a Briton.

Earlier, 11 men in a lifeboat had tried to approach the ferry and prepare the way for the tug but were forced to turn back because of rough seas, officials said.

Under tight security, relief camps open in Virgin Islands

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — Federal officials rushing aid to victims of hurricane Marilyn served hundreds of people, but hit a stumbling block — they didn't have enough trucks.

Food, infant formula, plastic tarps for roofing and other essentials were offered at three distribution sites on the island of St. Thomas, which lost a quarter of its housing and nearly all services during the hurricane Saturday.

But the centres closed for the night Tuesday without providing promised ice, drinking water, or nails and hammers needed to fasten the tarps to homes. Officials planned to reopen them Wednesday.

Gov. Roy L. Schneider conceded that there weren't enough trucks to distribute the aid being flown in by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mindful of sporadic looting, U.S. marshals and National Guard soldiers took up positions on the perimeter of a camp near the airport.

Accompanied by two young sons, Keith Richards, 37, picked up a tarp and said he wasn't concerned that he didn't have the tools or help to put it up.

"It's early and I just need a cover for the house," he said. "They're supposed to be providing assistance to put this up, too. It's going to come sometime."

FEMA was opening aid centres on the nearby islands of St. Croix and St. John as well.

Haitians protest presence of foreign troops and privatisation plans

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitians marked the first anniversary of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to power with protests Tuesday against foreign troops in Haiti and plans to sell state-owned companies.

It was the first organised demonstration against the troops who returned Mr. Aristide to power, but the majority of Haitians don't want them to leave until local forces are ready to take over security.

"Down with the occupation down with the International Monetary Fund down with privatisation" shouted placard-carrying demonstrators, part of the 1,000 gathered outside the National Palace.

Some erected barricades of burning tires at several intersections.

"The intervention brought relief to the people by destroying the army. But it opened the door to privatisation, too, and total dependence," said Arnold Orville, an rally organiser.

"The tiny oligarchy supported the coup, and it will profit from privatisation — as though it deserves a reward that's immoral," said Joseph Josue, a 39-year-old peasant militant.

The demonstration was called by 13 far-left political and grass-roots organisations, most of whom favour the populist president.

Mr. Aristide is publicly ambivalent about selling state-run enterprises. He agreed to the plan as a condition of $1.2 billion in international aid, but has said it needs "improvement."

one person was detained Tuesday and later released by members of the new police force, trained by instructors from the United States, Canada, France and other countries. No injuries were reported.

The march to the palace began at the burned out hulk of the St. Jean Bosco Catholic Church, a symbol to many of the brutality suffered under the military rulers who were ousted by the international intervention.

Army-backed henchmen attacked the church Sept. 11, 1988, while Mr. Aristide, a Catholic priest, was celebrating mass. The thugs set fire to the church after shooting, hacking and spearing to death at least 12 worshipers.

From the church pulpit, Mr. Aristide had denounced capitalism as a mortal sin.

School bell warns students of violence

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Like air raid sirens of the cold war, a special bell now alerts children at an elementary school that violence is just outside the building and sends them ducking for cover. Students at Langdon Avenue School are trained to return to class when they hear what some parents call "the shooting bell." It signals that gunshots have rung out in the neighbourhood 30 kilometres northwest of downtown Los Angeles. A truce among Hispanic gangs in the nearby San Fernando Valley appears to be unraveling, driving up the number of shootings there. "This area is terrible. There is much violence, so they must have this shooting bell," said parent Elsa Ceja. "It's too bad for the children that it's part of what they learn at school." Children are taught on the first day of school that if they hear a long bell, they must immediately leave the playground or lunch area and head to their classrooms, where the doors are locked. "It's really sad, but it's reality," said Nereida Johnson, a community liaison in the area for the Los Angeles Unified School District. "For people who don't live in areas like that, it's hard to believe."

Britain launches "boot camps" for young offenders

LONDON (R) — Britain unveiled plans for a tough new prison regime for young offenders along the lines of strict "boot camps" in the United States. Interior Minister Michael Howard said the 18 to 21-year-olds would face a 16-hour-day of military-style drills, physical exercise and kit inspections. The regime, to begin on a trial basis with 60 prisoners next summer, would also include face-to-face meetings with victims of crime to teach the offender responsibility, as well as training for work.

Burma relocating villagers for tourist 'zoo'

BANGKOK (R) — Burmese authorities are relocating "long-necked" minority women from their homes in eastern Burma to Rangoon to live in a model-village tourist attraction, a Burmese opposition group said. Ethnic minority people from more than 200 villages in Thandaung township in the hills of northern Karen state have been ordered to leave their homes by Nov. 10, the dissident All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) said in a statement. Among the hill people ordered to move to new locations on the low-land are members of the Padaung ethnic group whose women put metal rings around their necks giving them a "long-necked" look. The ABSDF said some of the Padaung people will be forced to live in a model village, which is being built near Rangoon in time for next year's "visit Myanmar year" and is described by the dissidents as an "ethnic human zoo". Many of the hill people were resisting the order to move and had fled into the forest instead, the ABSDF said. Independent confirmation of the ABSDF's report was not available but Padaung people have been promoted as tourist attractions before. A small group of Padaung women was taken from Burma to live in northwestern Thailand where tourists are charged money to take pictures of them. Another small group of Padaung people live near Burma's Inle Lake, tourist destination in southern Shan state where tourists are also charged to visit and take photographs.

KILLING FIELDS: South African police forensic experts sift through evidence in the 'killing fields' alongside Johannesburg's Boksburg Prison where the bodies of ten black women were found. Police suspect that a serial killer committed the crimes (AFP photo).

Yeltsin's Chechenya envoy escapes assassination bid

MOSCOW (R) — Oleg Lobov, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy in the rebel region of Chechenya, survived an apparent assassination attempt Wednesday, an incident bound to inflame tension in the volatile region.

Russian military spokesman, Vladimir Yanchenkov, speaking by telephone from the regional capital Grozny, said a car parked on a bridge on the road to Grozny exploded as Mr. Lobov, secretary of Russia's Security Council, was passing. Mr. Lobov was not hurt.

Interfax News Agency said a bomb planted on the bridge went off. "The bridge is effectively ruined," it said.

RIA news agency quoted a federal security service spokesman as saying the blast could have been caused by a mine or explosives triggered by remote control.

Interfax called the incident "a terrorist act" and said Moscow-installed Chechen Prime Minister Salambek Khadzhiyev and other senior officials were travelling in Lobov's convoy.

"It was an act of sabotage committed by the (rebel) fighters," Umar Avturkhanov, another top Moscow-backed official who was also in the convoy, told the radio station Ekho Moskvy.

Shirvani Basayev, a senior Chechen negotiator, told a local journalist in Grozny that rebels loyal to Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev had nothing to do with the blast.

RIA said four officials had been treated in hospital for minor injuries. It said Russia's special services had been aware of the possibility of an attack on Mr. Lobov.

"It may be evidently be qualified as an attempt...On Mr. Lobov's life," Interfax quoted an informed source in Grozny as saying.

The blast is sure deal a new blow to a shaky truce Russia and Chechen rebels signed at the end of July after seven months of fighting. Both sides consistently accuse the other of violating the deal.

Meanwhile Chechen rebels returned their big guns to combat positions Wednesday instead of turning them over to the Russian side under a military agreement, a senior rebel commander told Interfax.

Aslan Maskhadov said the decision had been taken after what he called an ultimatum by the Russian side Tuesday. Moscow said its troops would carry out the disarmament of the Chechens "in a unilateral way" — implying by force — unless the handover was carried out voluntarily.

Interfax reported Mr. Maskhadov's comments after an explosion set an oil refinery on fire and a blast devastated a bridge outside Grozny as Mr. Lobov was passing.

Wednesday's developments seemed sure to aggravate the situation in the region where thousands of civilians, Russian servicemen and Chechen fighters have been killed as Moscow tries to end Chechnya's independence drive.

Under a military agreement signed on July 30, the rebels are obliged to hand in their weapons in exchange for a withdrawal of most Russian troops from the region.

Both sides accuse each other of breaking the agreement and sporadic attacks have continued.

The explosion at the oil refinery started a large fire, Interfax said.

The agency said an investigation was under way to determine whether the blast was caused by an accident or a deliberate act.

"An investigative group is looking in to the circumstances of the incident to see if this explosion was connected with an accident during technical work or a terrorist act," Interfax said. It gave no other details.

Grozny has three refineries and it was not clear which one of them was hit. The biggest was hit and set on fire in May during fighting between Russian troops and separatist rebels.

Clinton hits Republican Medicare plans

MIAMI (R) — President Bill Clinton Tuesday said the Medicare system needs to be changed but he warned that Republican proposals threaten to cripple existing services while forcing the elderly to pay "dramatically more."

"We need to be open to changes in the system," Mr. Clinton said during an appearance at a senior citizens home. "We can't continue to let it grow at 10 per cent a year but we need to do it in a way that recognises our obligations across generational lines."

Mr. Clinton is in the midst of a four-state, five-day trip designed to raise $5 million for his 1996 re-election campaign and generate opposition to Republican policies — particularly plans to curtail the cost of Medicare for the elderly.

"What we need to do is to find the right way to balance the budget in a way that preserves the Medicare trust fund and extends it at least a decade, but does not ... cripple the health care system for today's elderly," Mr. Clinton said.

He charged that the Republican approach "would ask the beneficiaries of the system to pay more, dramatically more" or force them to scale back their health care.

White House officials, meanwhile, sought to soften Mr. Clinton's comment late Monday that he was open to Republican proposals that affluent Medicare participants be required to pay higher premiums.

"He doesn't think it's necessary," Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynrt said, insisting Mr. Clinton was not shifting his position on how to cut the rate of growth in Medicare costs.

7 Sri Lankan troops killed by rebels in east

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels killed seven soldiers in a pre-dawn attack on an army camp in eastern Sri Lanka Wednesday as part of a strategy to prevent garrisons there from joining an army offensive in their northern Jaffna stronghold, military sources said.

Nine soldiers were wounded in the two-hour attack on the small Navamangalagama detachment near Maha Oya town in the Amparai district which began around 3.30 am (2200 GMT), they said.

The dead, including an officer, belonged to an army auxiliary unit called the national Guard Battalion, they said.

The attack appeared to be in line with a campaign in recent months by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels to pin down eastern garrisons, preventing them from joining an imminent army offensive on Jaffna.

"The Tigers have been using a force of highly mobile fighters to stage hit-and-run attacks to keep a large number of our troops pinned down in the east," a senior military officer told Reuters. "All this time we didn't have enough troops to fight in Jaffna."

He said the military was confident of holding the east with a smaller army force and police.

"Even if the Tigers take control of the east, they can't hold it as the army can recover lost ground quickly," he said. "So we're going all out to fight the Tigers in the north."

The rebels, fighting a 12-year war for an independent homeland in the north and east, run a virtual mini-state in Jaffna with their own police, courts and administration. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict.

The army has been closing several camps in the east and redeploying tens of thousands of troops for the Jaffna offensive, expected before the October monsoon rains.

The rebels have taken over many areas vacated by the army, prompting several Sinhalese villagers living near the eastern border to flee their homes in fear of an attack.

Residents say the Tigers have also begun recruiting cadres from villages in areas from which the army has withdrawn.

"LTTE recruitment is going on in a big way after the army's withdrawal," a resident in the northeastern port of Trincomalee told Reuters. "The Tigers are training their new cadres in nearby jungles where they have built underground bunkers."

The LTTE has inflicted heavy casualties on troops through ambushes, landmine attacks and raids on isolated army outposts.

U.N. Assembly stresses reform, financial crisis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. General Assembly opened its 50th anniversary sesssion, with its new president calling for streamling the bureaucracy, expanding membership and re-evaluating peacekeeping.

As its first order of business Tuesday, former Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister Diogo Freitas Do Amaral, a 54-year old law professor, was elected president by the 185-member body by acclamation. He replaces Mara Essy of the Ivory Coast.

The United Nations had hoped to mark its 50th anniversary by enlarging the 15-member Security Council and putting its perenially-strapped finances in order. But apart from agreeing the Council should somehow be expanded and that U.N. members should pay their dues on time, both objectives remain elusive.

Owed more than $3.5 billion for its regular and peace-keeping budgets, the organisation continues to lead a hand-to-mouth existence while fielding nearly 70,000 blue helmets worldwide, including 46,000 in the former Yugoslavia.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Monday cited the financial crisis as one reason for recommending replacing the 31,000 U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia by an international coalition, whether or not current peace efforts there succeed.

Mr. Freitas Do Amaral, in his inaugural address, said the United Nations should be a universal body and called for efforts to "ensure that all states which are not yet members should seek to be admitted in the near future."

He did not mention any country by name.

For the third year in a row, a move by a group of small states aimed at obtaining U.N. membership for Taiwan, regarded by Beijing as a renegade Chinese province, is virtually certain to fail even to get inscribed on the agenda.

Mr. Freitas Do Amaral also stressed the obligation of members to pay their dues, saying this applied "to all member states, from the biggest to the smallest." the United States is both the biggest contributor and biggest debtor, with arrears totalling more than $1.1 billion.

He said the United Nations had to make an effort to be more efficient but the bureaucracy functioned on relatively few funds compared to peacekeeping, costing $3.7 billion.

He questioned whether the United Nations should allow peacekeepers "to become scapegoats for disagreement between member states" and favoured dispatching them only when effective conditions for their security could be guaranteed.

Dr. Ghali, shortly before the session, said the United Nations faced a "world revolution" now that the cold war no longer provided a framework for international relations.

"Today's conflicts are different: they are more likely to be inside states than between them," he told a luncheon. Today's politics are different: country after country is trying to democratise. This is far from easy."

Dr. Ghali, who ends his five-year term at the end of next year and may seek re-election, said: "The future is ours to build. The United Nations is the place where it can be done. And without the United Nations it cannot be done."

Meanwhile using the bully pulpit of the U.N. General Assembly, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani Tuesday called his city the capital of the world and blasted a movement in America that seeks to reduce commitment to the United Nations.

"Wherever you come from and however long you are here, you are New Yorkers," he told delegates from 185 countries at the opening of the Assembly's 50th anniversary session.

"No matter where you are from, in New York City you will find people from your country, your town, even your village, who speak your language and even your dialect," he said.

"New York is the capital of the world. And the presence of the United Nations makes that claim even more substantial .... Yet there is a movement in America to reduce our commitment and, specifically, funding to the United Nations."

Without referring specifically to some members of his own Republican Party in the forefront of that movement, he called it "an ill-conceived proposition that would achieve only symbolic savings in the federal budget, while greatly impeding the operation of the United Nations — and hurt the economy of the U.N.'s host country, the United States."

Mr. Giuliani said the continued viability of the United Nations was "critical to America's continuing mission to foster freedom and democracy throughout the world."

"It is ironic that at the same time America's economy is becoming more international, a potential strain of isolationism once again is infecting our political discourse."

Mr. Giuliani was only the second mayor of New York City to address the U.N. Assembly. The first was Mayor William O'Dwyer who in 1947 welcomed delegates at the beginning of the 2nd General Assembly.

Mafia 'enforcers' testify in Simpson trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — Under a television blackout, two former mafia figures told O.J. Simpson's double murder trial Tuesday that a key detective in the case told them the sports legend was a suspect from the very beginning.

Brothers Larry and Craig Fiato, self-confessed mafia "enforcers" turned police informers, said case lead detective Phillip Vannatter told them police went to Simpson's estate the morning after his ex-wife and her friend were murdered because the former football hero was a suspect.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Vannatter — recalled by defence lawyers hoping to show jurors that his previous testimony was a lie — repeated that he led three other detectives to Simpson's estate was to inform Simpson of his ex-wife's death and to make arrangements for the care of the couple's two young children.

But Larry Fiato said Mr. Vannatter told him in January of this year "something to the effect that he went over there as Mr. Simpson was the suspect."

And his brother Craig said Mr. Vannatter told him: "The husband is always a suspect."

Simpson, who became a popular sportscaster and actor after his playing days, has pleaded not guilty to the June 12, 1994, murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

His defence team has contended that police, led by detective Mark Fuhrman, set out to frame Simpson from the start, planting a bloody glove on the grounds of his estate.

The glove was shown to Mr. Vannatter by Mr. Fuhrman, who testified earlier that he found it beside Simpson's mansion.

Just before the Fiatos took the stand, Judge Lance Ito turned off the television and audio feed to the outside world and ordered still cameramen and sketch artists to leave the courtroom to protect the witnesses' anonymity.

The brothers, according to a Justice Department lawyer, are under "government protection" as informers for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other law enforcement agencies.

They started cooperating with authorities in 1982 in order to avoid being prosecuted for loan-sharking activities.

Larry Fiato said he met Mr. Vannatter while he was testifying in another murder case.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Vannatter stood his ground despite accusations that he lied to the jury regarding his search of the Simpson's estate.

In a combative question-and-answer session with defence attorney Robert Shapiro, Mr. Vannatter said: "I would never say that because O.J. Simpson was not a suspect at that time. O.J. Simpson became a suspect when I saw the (bloody) glove and when I saw the blood drops on the driveway. Then he became a very strong suspect."

Asked if he was sure Simpson was not a suspect at the time the detectives first went to the mansion, Mr. Vannatter replied: "There is no doubt in my mind. Mr. Simpson was no more a suspect than you were, Mr. Shapiro."

U.S. agrees to new international system to curb weapons exports — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States and several industrial nations have agreed on a new system to curb the export of weapons and sensitive technology to potentially hostile nations, the Washington Post said Wednesday.

Devised as a successor to export controls used by the West during the cold war, the new system is a far weaker control mechanism that leaves decisions up to individual governments, senior U.S. officials told the daily.

Unlike the old coordinating committee on multilateral export controls (COCOM) devised to block exports to the former Warsaw Pact, the new system only targets Iran, North Korea and Libya, the officials said.

There would be no "presumption of denial" of exports to other countries, including Sudan, Cuba and Syria, which the United States officially lists as sponsors of terrorism, Undersecretary of State Lynn Davis said.

Dubbed temporarily the new forum, the system was agreed upon by 28 nations at a meeting last week in the Hague, Ms. Davis said.

It has been endorsed by six of the world's leading seven leading arms suppliers, including Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States.

U.S. officials said China was not invited to join the group because of U.S. and allied concerns over its alleged export of weapons to Pakistan, Iran and other nations.

Ms. Davis said the new system is not ideologically driven as its predecessor and was meant to provide a way "to deal firmly with the current problems that we know exist" with military programmes in the four specifically targetted nations.

"The nature of the threats is different than the past," she said, hailing the accord's provision to require notification of major arms sales.

Other officials said that under the terms of the agreement, Cuba, Sudan, Syria — also on the U.S. list of countries sponsoring terrorism — would be accorded the same purchasing rights as other nations.

And although the agreement calls for withholding "armaments and sensitive ... items for military end-uses if the behavior of a state is or becomes a cause for serious concern," the officials noted, the group was unable to reach an understanding on the standards for such behaviour.

Other countries have expressed interest in joining the new system, which includes all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, as well as Australia, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Luxembourg, Hungary, New Zealand, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Sweden, the officials said.

Pope ends three-nation African tour

NAIROBI (AFP) — Pope John Paul II left Nairobi for Rome Wednesday after a three-nation tour of Africa in which he made a vibrant defence of the family and urged ethnic reconciliation in strife-torn Burundi and Rwanda.

He also called for a respect of human rights and religious cooperation in a tour clouded only by a boycott by Muslims of the final leg in Kenya.

"I pray that Christians and Muslims will continue to build bonds of mutual knowledge and respect so all believers in the almighty will work together for the good of the society as a whole," he said at Nairobi Airport before leaving for Rome.

"To all the followers of traditional African religions, I likewise express my appreciation and esteem," he added in the speech in which he summed up his impressions of Africa and the way forward for the continent.

The Pontiff, who also visited Cameroon and South Africa, arrived in Kenya Monday to be faced with a boycott by Muslims of an open-air ceremony in the capital.

They accused the Roman Catholic Church of wanting to evangelise the whole of Africa and also recalled massacres of Muslims by Christians during the conquest of Spain in the 15th century.

Pope John Paul called on Africans to respect peace and human rights as they strived to shape their continent to meet new challenges.

He said: "Africans know they must seize the opportunity to advance not only materially but above all on the part of respect for human rights and authentic democratic freedom.

"The people of Africa wish to give themselves the chance of a better future. They cannot let themselves down, and they cannot be let down by others."

He said the continuing gap between rich and poor regions of the world was a "serious threat to global stability" and wealthier countries had to help.

"The cry that goes out to the richer nations from the peoples of Africa is for aid, cooperation and solidarity which effectively respect people as people, poor or rich, powerless or powerful, all united in the human family and in the same human dignity," he added.

The Kenyan press welcomed the Pontiff's visit and said a ceremony in Nairobi Tuesday, which gathered crowds estimated at between 500,000 and one million, would live "long in the memory."

On the South African stage of his tour he denounced ethnic violence in both Burundi and Rwanda in which hundreds of thousands of people have died, calling on the warring groups to be reconciled.

He cited South Africa as a country in which segregation had been overcome and blacks and whites were tentatively being reconciled after so long apart.

One of the biggest ceremonies there was at Gosforth Park near Johannesburg, attended by more than 100,000 people including South African President Nelson Mandela.

The Pope urged women to use their "sense of the mystery of life" to reject abortion.

The same theme of the family emerged in Nairobi where he said the mother and the stable Christian couple were the channels for evangelisation. Lose that and Africa loses its soul, he intimated.

However he did not mention contraception or the practice of having more than one wife, saying only the way forward was via the "African family" coupled with the best of ancestral traditions.

The tour was the Pope's 11th visit to Africa which has some 95 million Roman Catholics.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

يومية سياسية عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: **667171/6, 607161**
Telex: **21497 ALRAI JO**
Facsimile: **696183**

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Breeze from the Gulf

THE GULF Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have formally decided to attend the forthcoming Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference to be held in Amman at the end of October. A statement issued at the end of the GCC foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh said that the six countries have "decided to coordinate their positions to ensure the summit's success."

This is a welcome development on two counts. One it signals a warming of relations between the GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman — and Jordan. Good relations between the GCC and Jordan, strained since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, are a prerequisite for an improved Arab environment, which all Arab states need to face their individual and collective challenges.

The other reason why the announcement is important is that the GCC's contribution to the summit, which is expected to result in the creation of a regional development bank, would be a boost to peace-making in the region. Countries like Syria and Lebanon, both engaged in the bilateral track of negotiations with Israel but which have stayed away from the frame of the multilateral talks, will certainly be encouraged to intensify their talks with Israel and join the regional effort. Furthermore, the Gulf countries, which for decades have provided funds and a market for labourers from Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, would, by supporting the creation of the proposed bank, contribute to creating jobs and bolstering the economies of the states involved. This in turn would ease the pressure on their, the GCC's, economies and create a viable market for their products, especially oil and oil-related products.

The spirit that peace-making has created seems to be blowing over to our brethren in the Gulf. With their funds, our human resources and goodwill on all sides, the October summit might prove to be a turning point also for relations between the countries of the region and its peoples.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the expansion of the self-rule areas in Palestine, Ibrahim Absi said in **Al Ra'i** that a permanent peace remains out of reach as long as the Israelis continue to cling to policies that reflect a mentality of war and aggression. How can the Arabs have peace with the Israelis, who act and behave in a manner showing that they are intent on fulfilling their dreams in Arab land? asked the writer. The Israeli government does not want to pull its forces out of Hebron, which is inhabited by more than 100,000 Arabs under the pretext that Israel wants to protect the 400 Jewish settlers in the city, said the writer. This stand, he said, clearly reflects Israel's intention of staying in the occcupied Arab territories. Israel, he said, is dealing with the Arabs in the peace era with the same mentality that streered its actions during the period of wars. The writer expressed fear that the negotiations will only lead to further sufferings for the oppressed Palestinians.

A WRITER in **Al Dustour** expressed belief that the Iraqi leadership is now seriously thinking of accepting a U.N. proposal for selling limited amounts of oil under the world organisation's supervision and control. Saleh Qallab said Baghdad has no doubt come to the conclusion that its continued rejection of the U.N. offer will only aggravate the situation and increase the Iraqi people's suffering. Only those who never went through such suffering as this inflicted on the Iraqi people continue to encourage Baghdad to remain adamant, he added. Although acceptance of the U.N. offer is coming late, it is a step that Baghdad must inevitably take to ease the suffering of its people on the one hand and to win credibility in the eyes of the world community on the other, according to the writer.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The evening studies programme: A project worth investing in

ONCE UPON a time, one of our public universities (Yarmouk University in particular) came up with an excellent idea and put it to practice. The idea came to be known as the Evening Studies Programme. For reasons which will be made known in what unfolds, the programme no longer exists. It was put to death and laid to rest a few years ago, when it was at its best.

The philosophy behind the programme was as follows: People who were unable to pursue their university education, for one reason or another, upon their completion of the Tawjihi were given the chance to do so at a later stage. The reasons varied. Some were unable to go to the university because they got low grades in the Tawjihi; some because they could not afford to pay the expenses; some because they had to work to support their younger brothers and sisters; some because they did not like the idea of going to the university in the first place (they were not mentally ready); and so forth.

Applicants had to meet two conditions. First, they had to have (in the case of males) completed their military service or to show that they had been exempted from it, or they had to have (in the case of females or males exempted from military service) taken the Tawjihi at least two years prior to their admission. Secondly, they had to have obtained 60 or above in the Tawjihi (later on, it was changed to 65).

All kinds of individuals showed up: Teachers, military personnel, taxi drivers, engineers (i.e. wanting a second degree), bank employees, civil servants, housewives, etc. And they varied in age: Some were in their twenties, some in their thirties, some in their forties, some in their fifties and (yes) some in their sixties. They came from all parts of the Kingdom: From Irbid, itself and the neighbouring towns, from Mafraq and the neighbouring towns, from Zarqa, Amman and even Karak.

They were allowed to register for a maximum of 15 credit hours per semester and a minimum of six (as opposed to regular students who were permitted to register for 18 credit hours of even 21). As many of them were working people, they generally showed up on campus after two o'clock and remained until as late as eight-thirty or nine in the evening.

The beauty of the programme lied (among other obvious things) in its noble aim, far-sightedness, profound vision and uniqueness. It enabled people who missed the chance to go to the university to do so, at the time when they felt willing and ready. By accepting persons who got lower grades in the Tawjihi, it deemphasised the Tawjihi as the only means of judging one's potential performance. Also, where else could one find such an interesting mix of people? Isn't university education, in part at least, about exchanging opinions and experiences?

For reasons which were never made entirely clear, the programme was cancelled. One reason, articulated by university officials and few professors (the vast majority of professors were not consulted on the matter or asked to express their opinion), was that such students were "weak." We heard several generalisations to this effect: "Evening students are no good;" "most of them are too old to learn;" "most of them work and are married and therefore they have no time at their disposal to devote to their studies;" "most of them come to the university for the wrong reason;" etc.

Well, maybe there is some truth in some or many of these unfair generalisations. Yes, there came to the university many "weak" students. But isn't this why they came to the university in the first place? Isn't one of our jobs at the university to make the "weak" students stronger, the less qualified more qualified? Yes, it may be difficult to teach older people, many of whom have "fixed" opinions and "strong" attitudes. Old ways die-hard. But ought we not to try to open up their angle of vision a bit and help them see things differently?

Most objections to the evening programme are themselves objectionable. Who says that our "morning" students, because they do not work or are not married, spend their time more prudently? Who says that a busy person can't find time for other crucial activities? Who says that younger people do not have attitude problems? Who says that the evening students are "weaker" than the morning students? Do not we accept students who have obtained 65 nowadays at our universities (i.e. morning students)? We do. Are not many of our morning students "weak?" They are.

From my own experience, I did not find that much difference between the performance of the evening students and that of the morning students. Naturally, as in the case of morning students, some are excellent, some are very good, some are good, some are mediocre and some are terrible. Two facts ought to be stressed here: a) some of the best students I have ever come across in my university teaching career were evening students, and b) some of the most motivated, most organised and most diligent students I have ever come across were also evening students.

If we worry so much about quality (and I think we ought to), we ought to take our teaching and evaluation of these students (of all students in fact) seriously? Who forces us to pass students who do not deserve to pass? However, we ought not to forget that what we say about the evening programme applies almost hundred per cent to what we say about the morning programme.

I believe that there are many deserving students out there who could greatly benefit from the evening programme, and I therefore believe that we ought to readopt the programme (some private universities already have adopted the programme). As for room on campus (and we complain that we do not have enough room for more students), the problem is solved, for most of our lecture halls and rooms are empty in the late afternoons and evenings. As for the teaching faculty, most of them will be willing to pressure themselves a little for the sake of a good cause and for an extra buck, a buck they can make use of when travelling for academic functions abroad, especially at a time when many of our institutions are unable to cover expenses for seminars or conferences abroad.

The evening programme is an excellent idea. It should be reintroduced.

Expect pride and indignation to remain China's official line

By Robert Elegant

BEIJING — Why is China so cantankerous? Why does it appear at once hypersensitive and hyperassertive? America, in particular, has found China a fierce enemy and a troublesome ally during the 20th century.

Chinese-U.S. relations are at a low ebb today, but they were even more contentious when Nationalist China was America's formal ally against Japan during World War II, and China's anti-Communist leader, Chiang Kai-Shek, was nominally one of the Big Five powers who determined the shape of the postwar world. Why?

One answer is obvious, although a little superficial. Since the early 19th century, the Chinese have deeply resented being told what to do by brash Americans and Europeans. They have felt with justification, that Chinese know more than foreigners about China.

Chiang Kai-Shek's quarrels with Washington became so acute that he demanded the recall of his American-appointed military chief of staff, General Joseph Stilwell. Chiang knew he was risking a break with his sole effective ally, but he believed he could not do otherwise. Besides, he and General Stilwell were equally stiff-necked.

Chiang was in a shaky position. Despite his resounding titles and the pomp that surrounded him, he was dependent on the goodwill of provincial warlords who held real power. He therefore had to show his followers, his rivals and his people that he was actually strong and decisive.

The regime in Beijing and the Communist Party today are also in a shaky position. Both are losing power to the regions as economic might becomes much more significant than political might in a nation striving with a good degree of success to get rich.

Moreover, the leaders of the Beijing regime lack the personal prestige that enabled the paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, to control events even though he held no office other than the presidency of the China Bridge (players, not builders) Association. Mr. Deng, who recently turned 91, is now out of the picture because of senility.

China's president and Communist Party chairman, Jiang Zemin, does not have a record of independent political achievement. Nor does Prime Minister Li Peng. Neither has commanded armies, organised economies or even charmed the rank and file of the party, much less ordinary people.

Like Chiang Kai-Shek in his day, they must therefore show forcefully that they are independent, strong and decisive. Railing at enemies abroad like Taiwan and the United States is intended largely to demonstrate their strength and the patriotism that will allow not a single square inch of sacred Chinese soil to remain apart from the motherland.

That militant posture also pleases the armed forces, which are assuming a kingmaker role as civilian authority declines. The military and presumably the people of China are also pleased by Beijing's hardline on the future government of Hong Kong, which will cease to be a British colony and "return to the motherland" in 1997.

Even deeper reasons make China belligerent. First is the conviction of the unique superiority of China, Chinese culture and the Chinese people.

For more than 2,000 years, China was dominant culturally, and often politically and militarily, in its own world of East Asia. Today, perceptive Chinese thinkers warn that it must abandon its complacent belief in its own absolute superiority if it is to function as a modern nation in the world.

That conviction of superiority is inflamed by enormous resentment. From 1839 to 1949, Western powers like Britain, France and the United States, as well as Japan later, repeatedly defeated Chinese armies and navies with contemptuous ease. Humiliated time after time, China was stripped of portions of its territory while foreigners in China were exempt from Chinese law.

China was not really treated as an equal even during World War II. Chiang Kai-Shek was not present at the summit meetings of Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union that drew a new map of the world.

Beijing is determined to make up for those repeated humiliations. Revenge and retribution are underlying themes of Chinese foreign policy. So is restoration of all "lost territory," down to the islets and reefs in the South China Sea.

In the days of Mao Zedong, Chinese were told, "Never seek hegemony!" Today China is apparently seeking, at the very least, to restore the cultural and moral hegemony it formerly exercised over much of East Asia.

China is on the road to becoming a superpower. Its progress is sustained not only by burgeoning industrialisation but also by its vast population of more than 1.2 billion.

Increasing dispersion of authority, which affects the armed forces as well as civilian institutions, may prevent China from becoming a first-class superpower. Nonetheless, the sheer weight of China's size and industrial base will make it a major force in world affairs.

The Chinese have generally talked tough but acted prudently, aware of the limits of their power. Yet China is now refurbishing its armed forces with modern weapons and technology, as well as planning to acquire an aircraft carrier. Beijing is clearly building a military force that can project power abroad.

That force will be moved by both pride verging on arrogance and indignation vergin on obsession, legacies of Chinese history.

The writer is a former Asia correspondent. This comment is reprinted from the Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

Cultural ignorance

To the Editor:

IN READING Dr. Waleed Sa'di's article "The right to speak your mother tongue" (Jordan Times, Sept. 18) I was surprised at Dr. Sa'di's apparent ignorance of American culture. His assumption that "English had been the official language of the country ever since its creation" is nonsense, given that over 25 per cent of Americans are of German heritage. As a matter of fact, the dominance of English only emerged at the turn of the century.

An even greater misstatement, regarding the American culture, is the postulation that floods of new emigrants caused the country "to look more like a hybrid than a unified country with a distinct culture and political heritage." Which distinct American culture are we talking about? Are we talking about the Irish Catholic culture, or the Italian-American culture, or the Amish, or the African-American cultures or Caribbean-American, or the Hispanic-American or the plethora of native American cultures? There also exist vast cultural chasms between rural America and large cities like New York and Houston. The United States has also always hosted a myriad of religious ranging from Quaker to Protestantism to Catholicism to Reformism to Santaria to Islam to Judaism and on and on.

In short, America has never been homogenous and monocultural. If such a thing as a dominant culture exists in America, then it is based on diversity. It is not an accident that America has been dubbed in Great Melting Pot or Salad Bowl by scholars.

Dr. Sa'di's argument that "there must be one official language for (a) country as a tool to encourage the establishment of a national culture and forging of a unified nation" is suspect. Why do we need to suppress cultural diversity in the process of nation building? Why not take pride in our diversity and learn from others and expand our horizons? We have seen what happened in the Balkans and the former USSR when they tried to promote one dominant culture and language at the expense of others.

Understanding and acceptance of differences are by far a superior route to forging a common culture and identity. Why not build on commonalties rather than suppress differences? It is the fear of the other and the suppression of the other which is, more often than not, the source of conflict and instability.

Sharif Al Saifi,
Amman.

Freedom to learn

To the Editor:

A CONTINUOUS debate still taking place on whether freedom to learn should be confined to those of higher achievements in class work, thus creating elite students, should be open to those who possess mixed factors of achievements, preparation and mentality.

The recurrent problem of who is to be admitted to universities raises many serious questions such as whether there would be any harm done to the country or to the educational system if higher education were made available to whoever affords to pursue it. Can we accept and generalise a criterion that a student with a score of an 80 per cent average in the tawjihi examination is to be excluded from applying to local universities?

Why shouldn't our universities be made centres of research providing services to various clients inside the country and in the region at large? By so doing, a new source of income could be secured leading to reduction in tuition fees and to the enhancement of universities' enrollment capacities, eventually enabling these institutes to accept greater number of students.

Jordan has spent huge amounts to funds over the years to finance public universities, to upgrade their educational status and to develop their amenities. Jordanians, therefore, deserve to see a good number of their sons and daughters enrolled in those universities.

Jordan has spent huge amounts of fund over the years to finance public universities, to upgrade their educational status and to develop their amenities. Jordanians, therefore, deserve to see a good number of their sons and daughters enrolled in those universities.

While recognising the many benefits of studying abroad, we should not close our eyes to the fact that many thousands of our school graduates seek acceptances at foreign universities. By so doing we expose our sons and daughters to other norms and cultures which may not necessarily congrue with ours.

Furthermore, who says that a high average school graduate can perform better in life than others? No rule can be applied here. Psychiatrists and sociologists believe that learning is a continuous process of change, attitude, preparations, priorities and drive. It is worth remembering a line by Ahmad Shawqi, the dean of 20th Century Arab poets. "Many a brilliant in his class work is a failure in life." This should be taken seriously by educators who advocate tighter admission standards based on a sole criterion, the average mark.

Dr. Maher Waked,
Amman

'Non-honourable' practices

To the Editor:

I AM frustrated and outraged, as I once again open the pages of the Jordan Times and read about a new "crime of honour." Although for many delving in this topic is a taboo, I believe that our society cannot advance unless we are willing to face ourselves and start a process of self-criticism.

The U.N.'s Fourth Women's Conference gave us some hope that issues pertaining to women will be given more attention. Yet these crimes committed against women brings us back to reality, away from conference rooms, grand slogans and recommendations. Recommendations remain empty slogans unless we do something to counter our popular beliefs that a woman remains the property of her family, brother or husband and therefore they may do with her whatever they think fit. This gender-based violence against women is linked to male power, privilege and control. It is part of our patriarchal society, culture and tradition, which often are reflected in national laws that help to perpetuate the idea of male dominance.

As the Arab World examines itself on women's achievements, aspirations, problems and women's rights in society, who is discussing the issues affecting the dear lives of women? Million questions run through my troubled mind as I read about these crimes. For one, we pride ourselves in the Arab World that "our" women are safer here than in the "wild West" because we do not have street violence, high incidents of rape and sexual assaults. Yet in saying this, we remain blind to the fact that these matters are relative, and that in our society, violence within the family is more injurious to women than street crimes, and it remains the leading cause of injury to women. "Honour" killing remains the most harmful traditional practice which is not broadly condemned. We have already turned a blind eye to wife battering, violations of children's rights, domestic violence. But I think it is high time to do something against this gender-based victimisation.

The upholding of human rights should be the pillar for a country that is going through the process of political liberalisation. Who are we going to blame for the perpetuation of these gender-based victimisation and for how long are we going to tolerate this violence? Do we fault our political parties for not having platforms for action against honour killing and sexual assaults? Do we fault our predominantly male parliamentarians for not calling for enacting and enforcing legislation against perpetrators of practices and acts of violence against women? Do we fault women's organisations for not documenting incidents of this type of violence and trying to stop them?

I believe that primarily we should place the blame on women's rights advocates and women's organisations for miserably failing to lobby for laws that will protect women and prompt arrest against the abusers. The only powerful venue for change is the legal system. When will women's rights advocates press for justice? We as women must utilise our voting power to lobby for change, to withhold our votes from candidates who are not willing to make our agenda theirs, and to press the government to enact laws that will put an end to this blatant violations of human rights.

While we applaud the efforts of Ms. Husseini and the Jordan Times for being the vanguards in addressing this "non-honourable" topic, we await the day when we women, can sleep peacefully knowing that our lives are not at the constant jeopardy of the whims of a brother, father, husband or any male relative whose "act of anger" is looked upon with leniency by the law.

Abla Amawi,
Amman

Weekender

September 21, 1995 A

Published Every Thursday

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Fall opens to many winds of change

At the foreign ministry the staff is busy helping officials moving in and out. Nayef Hadid, former Secretary General is packing up and is hitting the road to Morocco as Jordan's new ambassador to that kingdom. In his place, but as acting Secretary General, will be Ibrahim Naghaway, the former head of the Consulate Department. Former Ambassador to Abu Dhabi Samir Hmoud will take the vacancy left by Mr. Naghaway. Former Chief of Protocol Samir Masarwah has cleaned out his office and is heading for his new post as Ambassador to Rome in the next week. His successor is Ahmad Al Hassan, who came in from Jordan's embassy in Cairo where he was counsellor. The new head of the ministry's Political Department is Abdul Latif Bawab, who was most recently head of consular affairs at the embassy in Dubai. The International Relations, Organisation and Conferences Department will be headed by Minister Counsellor Ibrahim Nabulsi. And Ibrahim Dabbas will become acting chief of the Legal Department, succeeding Mohammad Tawfiq Khalidi who heads to Cairo as deputy to Ambassador Nayef Qadi.

****

GOING EAST: *While some Jordanian diplomats return from the Gulf, United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Jasim Shukr is ending his tour of duty. As the dean of the Arab diplomatic corps in Jordan, having served here the longest, nearly seven years, Mr. Shukr's experience and diplomatic skill are going to be put to further good use as he is said to be heading for Malaysia to take over the embassy there. The next dean, then, will be Omani Ambassador Mohammad Ibn Sultan who arrived in Amman in the spring of 1989. The successor to Mr. Shukr at the embassy there is still unknown.*

****

ROAD TALK: *The art of moving is right up Marwan Khitan's alley. With 16 years under his belt at the Public Transportation Corporation, Mr. Khitan takes the reigns as the corporation's new director. His predecessor and colleague, former director Suleiman Habahbeh is said to have taken the private sector route and joined the newly-formed public shareholding company called the Petra Bus Company, whose major shareholder is prominent businessman Khalil Talhouni. Messrs. Khitan and Habahbeh have come to a fork in the road — now one will be bussing tourists while the other will continue bussing the public.*

****

VEERING NORTHWARDS: *Dr. Kamel Ajlouni has completed the maximum two terms as president of the University of Science and Technology (JUST). The first president of the state-owned university, which was established in 1986, will be returning to the University of Jordan Faculty of Medicine to teach. Dr. Ajlouni, a former Minister of Health in the Cabinet of Ahmad Obeidat, was honoured by his colleagues, counterparts and friends at a lunch on the JUST campus in Irbid Tuesday. Talk there and in other academic circles points to Dr. Sa'ad Hijazi, another physician, who has been Dr. Ajlouni's deputy, as the most likely candidate to fill the presidency.*

****

MAY THE BEST 'PERSON' WIN: *In Amman, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh, who was re-appointed last month to a second four-year term, himself appointed four new deans from the list of 15 faculties on that campus. The partially new appointments included: Abdul Rahman Shahin, Faculty of Arts, succeeding Mohammad Kheir Yassin who has resigned; Raghda Shukri, Faculty of Nursing, succeeding Wafiqa Abdul Rahim who also has resigned; Khaled Touqan, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, succeeding Mohammad Abdul Aziz; and Suleiman Rihani, Faculty of Educational Sciences, succeeding Sami Khasawneh. Drs. Abdul Aziz and Khasawneh had served the maximum two terms as deans. But the one appointment that had faculty members talking was that of Dr. Touqan. Detractors said Dr. Touqan was not senior enough to be appointed dean because he was not yet a full professor. The university by-laws call for preference to be given to full-professors but they do not make that criteria mandatory. Supporters of Dr. Touqan's appointment say he was the best choice for the post as he was the most academically sound (he is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), the most acceptable to the majority of his colleagues in the faculty, and is a person of high integrity. "When you look around you need to select someone who is first well-respected academically and not for his/her title," said a faculty member.*

****

CULTURE ON THE GO: *When it comes to appointments and reshuffles at government agencies, departments and other institutions, the criteria can at times be hazy. Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh has informed Royal Cultural Director Iyad Qattan that his contract will be terminated as of early October. According to Mr. Habashneh, his decision was taken for no particular reason other than "to activate the work at the centre." The minister said he has offered Mr. Qattan, instead, a position as special advisor to the minister of culture. The post is said to be at the same salary Mr. Qattan is currently receiving. That, to some, may be an attractive offer, considering that advisors basically do not have to put in many hours at their workplaces. But ministry sources have said that the position of advisor to the minister and a salary to go with that position are already occupied by novelist Munes Razzaz and Iraqi poet Abdul Wahab Bayatti. Mr. Qattan (52), who became director of the RCC only a month before the parliamentary elections of 1989 and has since made the centre a multipurpose facility, including at one time hosting political debates, is faced with a quandary. Mr. Habashneh, on the other hand, was not saying whom he had proposed to take the reigns of the RCC. He said he was still discussing that issue with the Prime Minister. But sources say the person being considered is Suleiman Nseirat, a retired army officer. The minister's detractors describe Mr. Nseirat's possible appointment as political since he and Mr. Habashneh were both members of the Arab Democratic Party until a row with the party's leadership resulted in the resignation of Mr. Habashneh and afterwards of Mr. Nseirat. Following Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's establishment last April of the National Cultural Committee, Mr. Habashneh, second in command of the committee after Sharif Zeid, appointed Mr. Nseirat as a member of that panel. As to what course Mr. Qattan will take, we cannot predict because he has refused to make a comment on what is happening.*

****

COMPARING NOTES: *If discussion in some arenas fell silent, Jordanians were talking to Iranian visitors right here on the ground last week. Two Iranian religious sheikhs, Ahmad Ahmadi and Taher Marqati, were on a study visit to Jordan last week to meet with academicians and other counterparts and acquire some insight into the state of the art of academic research, documentation and publication in the Kingdom. Dr. Ahmadi, the more senior and the president of the Organisation for the Publication of University Textbooks in Iran, speaks four languages and is an expert in comparative philosophy (Islamic-Western). He is also a member of Iran's Higher Council on Culture which is headed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani and studies issues related to Islamic culture and how to cope with modern-day life within Islam. While in Jordan, the two mullahs met with President of the University of Jordan Fawzi Gharaibeh and the head of the philosophy department, Suleiman Bdour, who was a classmate of Mr. Ahmadi while Dr. Bdour was studying in Iran. The visitors also met with AL al Bayt University President Mohammad Adnan Bakhit. Iranian Ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Dastmalgian hosted a dinner in honour of Dr. Ahmadi and Mr. Marqati last Saturday at the InterContinental Hotel to which he invited journalists, professors and religious scholars. Their visit here was seen as a part of the Islamic Republic's efforts to encourage further exchangeS in spheres of common interest in the Islamic world.*

****

IN THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE ACCUSTOMED: *Two senators this week concurred on much more than affairs of state. Former Prime Minister Mudar Badran and neurosurgeon Ashraf Kurdi (a former military surgeon), currently members of the Upper House of Parliament, cast a major vote of confidence, with a good bit of lobbying from their wives Momina Badran and Huda Kurdi, in the future happiness of two of their children, Lama Badran and Omar Kurdi, as they exchanged marriage vows Sunday evening at the InterContinental Hotel. Lama (21) just graduated with a bachelors in industrial engineering from the University of Jordan, and Omar (27) has a masters in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech in Atlanta. When the couple return from their honeymoon in the U.S., it will be back to work for Omar. At the wedding, needless to say, were current Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and nearly every previous prime minister, including Abdul Salam Majali, Taher Masri and Zeid Rifai.*

WHAT'S IN A NAME: *Readers of Al Dustour may have noticed that the daily columnist who used to sign as Sahban has recently switched to signing as Halim. In a column he devoted entirely to the issue of why he had to change his name, the columnist explained that because someone whose name actually is Sahban complained that his friends began to question whether he was the write he decided it best to choose another pen name. But Halim is certainly rather more common than Sahban. Rather than have readers face the possibility of yet another name change, the J.T. has learned that the person behind that column is none other than novelist and former deputy Fakri Kawar.*

****

IN SHIPSHAPE: *Another Kawar makes the news as Amin Kawar & Sons Co. marked their 40th anniversary in shipping services with a freighter-size reception at the InterContinental Hotel Monday evening. Perhaps even more than the 1,600 people invited attended the outdoor celebration, with guests nearest the edge of the pool trying to avoid falling in. Company chief Tawfiq Kawar has always been in the forefront of efforts to upgrade Jordan's shipping sector. As president of the Shipping Agents Association he launched a relentless campaign to get the offshore inspection of Aqaba-bound ships changed to an onshore inspection by Lloyds Register when the U.S. sanctions on Iraq wreaked havoc for Jordan's import operations through its only port at Aqaba. The company was named after Mr. Kawar's father, Amin, who made his mark like many other members of enterprising families from Salt, by turning from land cultivation to industry and services as the road to success in the 40s and 50s.*

****

A DIVE WORTH TAKING: *With the support of HRH Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Prince Faisal Ben Ra'ad and Princess Basma Ali, the Jordan Royal Ecological Diving Society (JREDS) last week organised a clean-up dive in Aqaba as part of the Kingdom's contribution to the worldwide effort of cleaning the seas "Clean up the World Campaign," to save marine life. The divers involved began the clean-up at the site of the "Black Rock Reef" scooping out four-cubic-metres of rubbish from the area. Their effort was supported by the Royal Diving Centre, The Aqua Marina Diving Centre, the Red Sea Diving Centre and Al Kazar Diving Centre. The group was also helped by the Aqaba Regional Authority, Aqaba Port Authority and the Royal Jordanian Coast.*

****

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: *The flaming red, double-decker BBC publicity bus is scheduled for a tour of Jordan starting Sept. 26. A team of reporters from the BBC Arabic Service and English newsroom will be on board to meet BBC listeners around the Kingdom and provide them with the opportunity to ask questions and to discover more about the BBC. The bus itself is authentic as it used to carry passengers through the streets of London. It has since been converted into a mobile exhibition centre complete with a small video theatre on the top deck. Since its inauguration in 1989, the BBC bus has toured Europe and the countries of the former Soviety Union. The trip to the Middle East is a first. On the itinerary besides Amman are stops in Zarqa, Irbid, Madaba and Karak. The team will also visit the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and AL al Bayt University. For interested students specially arranged journalism seminars will be part of the campus leg of the tour. The bus and team are arriving from Syria where they will have spent two weeks and even taken part in the Damascus International Fair. British Ambassador Peter Hinchliffe and wife Archie, not ones to miss an opportunity to entertain, have planned a reception at their residence the evening the bus and company roll into town.*

****

MORE ON THE AIRWAVES: *Orbit Satellite Television and Radio Network claims it is "rewriting television history" with an all-new subscription policy giving viewers the power to choose the channels they really want from Orbit's more than 30 channels featuring news, sports and entertainment to the Arab World. With the "Orbit Choice" policy, the network says, viewers are free to select the channels they want to what for individual prices as low as $3 a month but with a minimum monthly subscription commitment of $50. Meanwhile Orbit Direct, the exclusive distributor for the network, has appointed Modern Arabian Business Corporation (MABCO) as its "master dealer" in Jordan, granting the company overall responsibility in the Kingdom for the distribution of Orbit receivers. MABCO General Manager Eyad Allaeddine said his corporation will be the first to officially introduce Orbit to the Jordian market.*

****

NO COUCH POTATOES HERE: *Good news for some — the Australian Embassy's popular "Outback Bar," located at the embassy proper, will reopen on Sept. 28 (a Thursday naturally). Admission will be restricted to holders of diplomatic I.D.s or those persons whose names are placed the embassy's guest list. In charge of bar operations will be Second Secretary William (Bill) George Richardson, at the embassy and new Attaché. Jennifer Saville. The bar will open at 7:00 p.m and is expected to close at midnight sharp, sources tell us. Good on ya, mates!*

Jennifer Hamarneh

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

*Peace on earth, good will to men — **Gospel according to St. Luke.***

*To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult with every year — **E.B. White,** American author and journalist **(1899-1985).***

*Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile — **William Ashley "Billy" Sunday,** American Evangelist **(1862-1935).***

Moniputers

By Jean-Claude Elias

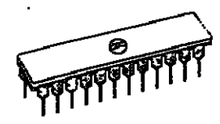
A tigrion is the offspring of a tiger and a lion and a moniputer is a hybrid between a monitor (a screen) and a computer. This is not fantasy, it's a perfectly real product that will be available at the end of the year.

Several major manufacturers, Acer, Compal, Leo, Mitac, Lite-On, Tatung and Waffer have joined forces to produce what seems to be much in demand by PC worldwide: Practical, space saving equipment.

Ironically, the idea is not new at all. The novelty is only in the name moniputer. The concept of having the whole computer system, screen, disks, memory, keyboard, etc., housed in one single unit goes back to the very first personal computers produced in the early eighties. The first Apple, the Sinclair, the Radio-Shack, the celebrated Olivetti M20 and all these venerable ancestors could have been called moniputers. Actually they were even more integrated solutions than what the new moniputer is. Indeed, the keyboard and the mouse have been kept separated from the main body in the moniputer's design. Currently made notebooks are but the ultimate form of moniputers, since they hold all elements in one single unit.

In 1984-1985, manufacturers realised that the machines must be as modular as possible. Only an advanced stage of modularity would allow easy and inexpensive modifications, expansions, repairs, interchangeability of components, and so forth. Therefore, PCs produced after 1985 consisted of 4 discrete units: The PC main cabinet, the monitor, the keyboard and the mouse.

chip talk



In addition to occupying more desk space, the 4-unit concept makes transportation complicated. Moving a PC from one desk to another or from the office to the home becomes a tedious operation. A moniputer on the other hand can be easily carried.

One major technical difficulty is having the floppy disk drives too close to the monitor. The electrical and magnetic interference produced by regular CRT (cathode ray tube) screens is harmful to diskettes and even to hard disks. Notebooks do not use CRT displays and do not have this problem. Opening a moniputer to add memory, replace a card or make a repair will be less simple than with conventional PCs.

The above mentioned manufacturers say they are working on solving these difficulties. They are seriously planning to reach mass production by February 1996. As it is usually the case with information technology, it is not easy to predict how successful the new solution will be. Users' response and feedback will decide.

The continuing search for big ideas

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Certain issues do at times seem rather unimportant when compared to the bigger issues that any society grapples with. But sometimes, it is these seemingly unimportant issues that need to be talked about for the lessons that can be learnt from them in the search for big ideas.

Product recall is one such big idea which is certainly not all that easy for any producer. But when public safety is endangered, it takes a courageous institution to publish a big advertisement in a newspaper, a foreign newspaper, recalling all defective products in return for a full refund.

What this goes to show, in part at least, is that a producer-consumer relationship based on honesty is very important. And here, both parties have to be commended. Certainly consumers have not had it easy. All such rights had to be fought for, mainly through consumer protection agencies. Such agencies made sure that producers could never get away with anything from faulty car designs to a possible risk of small pieces of metal in a range of chocolate cakes.

Another such big idea is about providing for the needs of the visually impaired among us. Generally, it is because of their fear of such embarrassing situations that many visually impaired people will never stay with friends or relatives simply because the thought of getting there is too intimidating.

When visually impaired people stay overnight in an unfamiliar place like a friend's house, one sure way of saving themselves the embarrassment of walking into the wrong bedroom would simply involve marking their door handle with a piece of string.

These and other ideas require an audience which is truly in touch with its needs and aspirations and which understands the difficulties involved when trying to campaign for the rights of consumers on the one hand and the visually impaired on the other. A society certainly needs some sort of legislation to protect all categories of its citizens whether they are the handicapped, pedestrians, shoppers, workers, those on sick leave and many more.

This kind of legislation has to be arduously campaigned for by everybody: the people, all people, their deputies, NGOs, the trade unions and consumer protection agencies, whenever they exist.

Human beings, by virtue of their nature, need to feel secure and where better to seek this security than in the heritage currently entrusted to us. One other big idea is about coaching people to respect. Coaching, because nothing else seems to work, people to have respect for the people around them, for the members of their family, for their neighbours, for the people they work with, for the streets they drive in, for the city where they live and for the treasures that history has entrusted them with.

The British people have risen in uproar over a government intention to flog to the private sector, alias privatise, a site of Baroque drama and classical rectitude, that of the Royal Naval College in Greenwich. Newspaper editorials called instead for these buildings to be preserved and their usefulness enhanced as a celebration of the values which the site has marked for three centuries: innovation, science, art and the importance of Britain's relations with the outside world. Readers of the newspapers were asked to offer ideas for the place if the government had run out of ones except wielding the auctioneer's hammer. In such situations, sparking a public debate is the way forward.

Meanwhile in a parallel world, respecting people and their environment most certainly means that the new roundabout on an arterial route in the Abdoun area of Amman is not more privileged than the one on a similar arterial route in Al-Rabia area. But, and sadly enough, one finds that the former was planted with green trees while the latter was plastered over with concrete.

In the manner that the consumer protection agency campaigns for the good of the consumer, why can't there be several community protection agencies that can be called upon to spark the local architectural debate and campaign for better, historically continuous and more equal urban environments in our city?

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 21

1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
1:15 Noddy
1:30 Fireman Sam
1:45 My Secret Identity
2:15 N.B.A.
3:15 Take Your Pick
3:45 Dead Men's Tales
4:15 I Witness Video
5:00 Children's Programme
5:30 Varieties And Game Show
Le Monde Est A Vous
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Court Metrage
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 National Geographic
8:30 The Album Show
9:15 Murder She Wrote
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — Games Mother Never Taught You
Starring: Loreta Swit & Sam Waterson
11:50 Shogan
12:30 Perfect Strangers

Friday, Sept. 22,

1:00 Read A Lee Deed A Lee
1:15 Beethoven
1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That
2:00 White Fang
2:30 Movie — The Mark Of Zorro
Starring: Tyrone Power & Linda Darnel
4:00 Crystal Maze
5:00 Children Programme
5:30 Telefilm
Baldipata
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
E=M6
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 African Skies
8:00 Coach
8:30 Nomads of The Wind (documentary)
9:15 Danger Field
10:00 News In English
10:25 "Power & Lovers"
Starring: Stephen Dillane
11:50 The Buddy Holly Story (Doc/Music)

Saturday, Sept. 23,

2:00 Back To The Future
2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
3:00 Mountain Men
3:45 Only In Hollywood
4:05 Families
5:00 Children's Programme
5:30 Documentary — Le Bicentenaire Du Louvre
6:00 Drama Series — Operation Open I Et 2
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Faut Pas Rever
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 First Flights
8:00 Major Dad
8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman
9:35 Boogies Diner
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — The Return Of Elliot Ness
Starring: Robert Stack & Jack Coleman
11:50 Noble House

Sunday, Sept. 24,

2:00 The Flintstones
2:30 Joshua Jones
2:45 The Mighty Jungle
3:00 Pugwall's Summer
3:30 Time Riders
4:00 Families
5:00 Children's Programme
5:30 Serie
L'Instit
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Ushuaia: Le Magazine De L'Extreme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Cinema, Cinema
8:00 Nurses
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:15 Strathblair
10:00 News In English
10:25 Counter Strike
11:10 Return To Eden
12:30 Keeping Up Appearances

Monday, Sept. 25,

2:00 The Animals Of Farthing Wood
2:30 Hey Dad!
3:00 Survival
4:00 Families
5:00 Children Programme
5:30 Documentary — L'Archeologie Sous Marine
5:50 Telefilm
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Varieties
7:35 News Headlines
7:35 Camp Wilder
8:00 Mc Hale's Navy
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Hearts Of The West
10:00 News In English
10:25 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries
11:30 Movie — Annihilator
Starring: Mark Lindsay & Susan Blakely

Tuesday, Sept. 26,

2:00 Captain Planet
2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
3:00 Mountain Men
4:00 Families
5:00 Children's Programme
5:30 Magazine
Montagne
5:50 Varieties
Taratata
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Faut Pas Reve
7:35 You Bet Your Life
8:00 Piglet Files
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:15 True Blue
10:00 News In English
10:25 Trade Winds
11:30 New York Undercover
12:00 Grace Under Fire
12:30 Varieties

Wednesday, Sept. 27,

2:00 Madeline
2:30 Super Champs
3:00 Tomorrow's World
3:30 Amazing Stories
4:00 A Special Documentary
5:00 Children's Programme
5:30 Detective Telefilm
Les Cinq Demifres Minutes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Ushuaia, Le Magazine De L'Extreme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
8:00 Anything For A Laugh
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:15 The "Other" Americas
10:00 News In English
10:25 Prism
10:45 Law And Order
11:45 Silk Road
12:30 Varieties

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

FANTASTIC FACTS

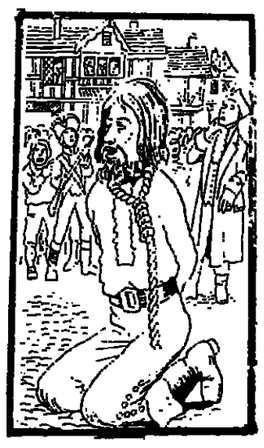
— Sam Jessup addicted to pill swallowing, took in the region of 227,000 pills in 22 years. He also drank 40,000 bottles of medicine. He died in 1752.

*****

— Henry Ford, the motor millionaire, never threw away a letter or a bill and his lawyers were left to sort out 5,000,000 documents, a two-year task. Amongst them were 10,000 unopened letters.

*****

— Captain Kidd, the pirate, executed at Wapping, London, in 1701, was hanged three times because the rope snapped twice. Each time the rope broke, spectators urged Kidd to run for it but the pirate was too drunk even to stand properly.



*****

— Are you a thrasher-about in bed? Well, best fit a safety belt. According to a West German insurance company's statistics, some 600 people a year die in that country by falling out of bed.

*****

JOKES

* DURING the exam, the pupil said to the teacher, "Do you mind telling me today's date?"

TEACHER: "Forget about the date and take care of answering the questions?"

PUPIL: "I just want to write something I believe it is correct!"

*****

* TEACHER: "What's the best way of preserving milk from going bad?

PUPIL: "To leave it in the cow's udder!"

******

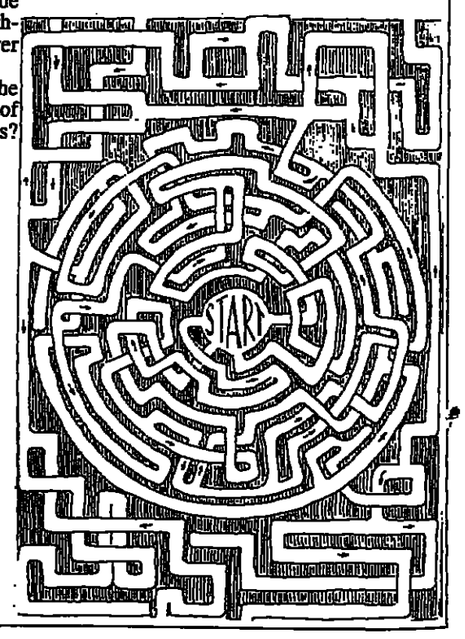
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Where is the Valley of Kings?
2. How many strings has a pangolin?
3. What is another name for mercury?
4. What is ormolu and what is it used for?
5. Which is the odd man out, and why?
Etna - Vesuvius - Ben Nevis - Stromboli - Popocate - Pell.
6. What is periodot?

******

PUZZLE ME

Can you find your way from the START to one of the exists at the edge without ever going against the direction of the arrows?



The metre, liter and kilo are shaking up the imperial system

By Jean-Louis Pany
Agence France Presse

LONDON — Pounds and ounces, pints and gallons, feet and inches, the standards of Britain's "imperial" weights and measures are grudgingly making way for the metric system that will be obligatory for prepackaged products sold in British shops after oct. 1.

The changeover, ostensibly for the consumer's benefit, promises only to leave him befuddled.

"Actually, we have been able to use the metric system in this country since 1897 ... but you couldn't use (the two systems) together," said Alan Street, chief executive of the Institute of Trading, Britain's consumer legislation watchdog.

"You had to make your mind up, using one or the other ... you either sold in metric or imperial."

Britain's multinational companies, obliged to deal in kilos and liters abroad, were the first to cave in, said Mr. Street. In the 1980s, petrol pumps switched over to liters and the construction industry took the metre on board.

"There was no pressure from the government on trading industry," said Mr. Street. "But the British government has always said we would be driven by customer demands towards the metric system."

"If you are 25 years or less, you would have been taught in school on the basis of the metric system only," he said.

London has thus decided to partially apply a 1989 European directive that was an amendment to one of the first harmonisation rules of 1971 — when Britain was not yet a member of the then European Economic Community.

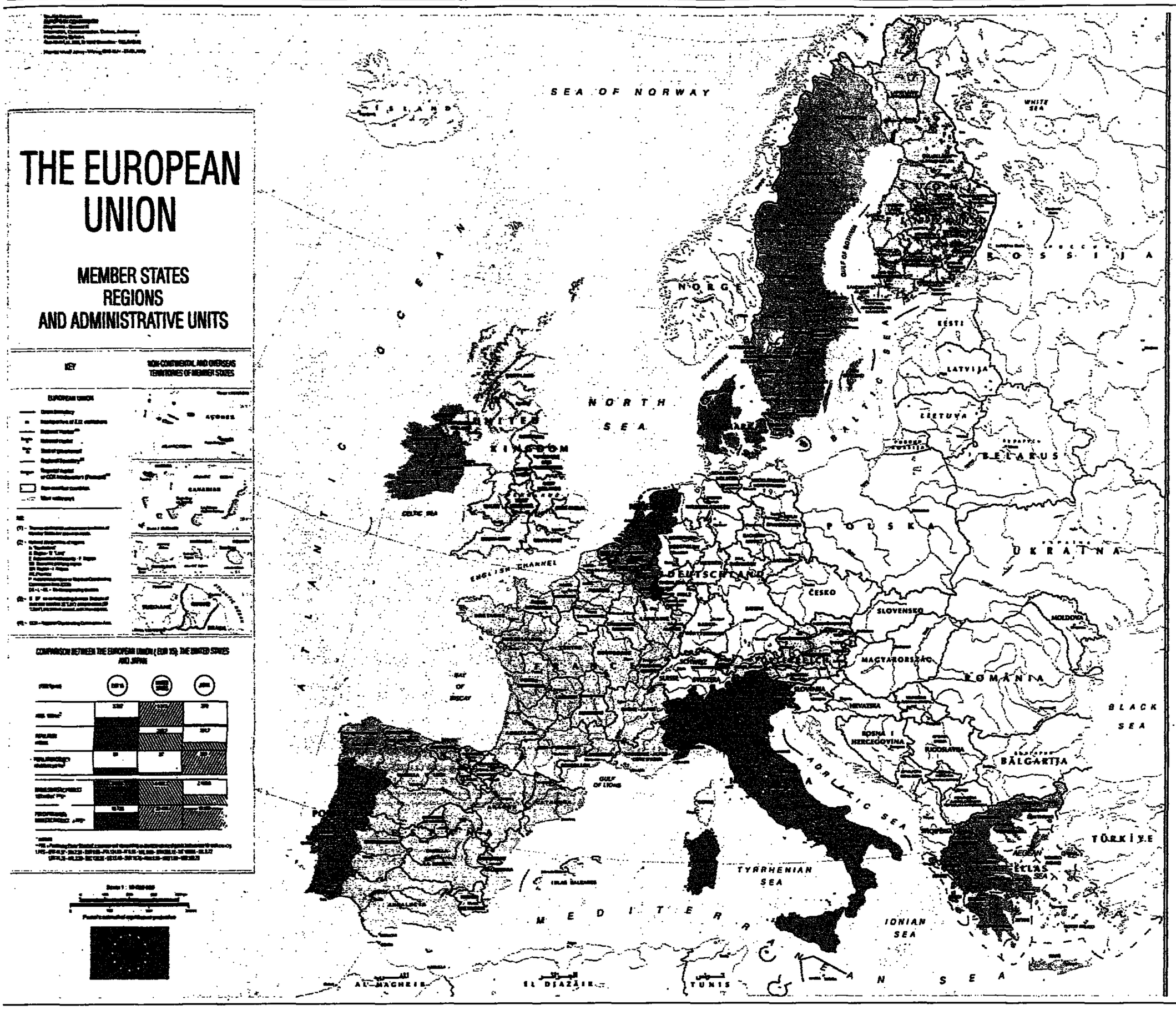
At midnight, Sept. 30, pre-packaged fruits, vegetables and meats will be sold by gram and kilo, not ounces and pounds, bottles will be labelled in liters and carpets will be cut in metres.

Invoking the importance of the cultural symbolism at stake, London in 1989 won two exemptions: beer in pubs will continue to be sold by the pint, as will home-delivered milk.

Jordan Times

EUROPEAN SUPPLEMENT

Thursday, September 21, 1995



Europe seeks secure, stable Mediterranean region

Following is an interview conducted by the Jordan Times with Juan Manuel Cabrera, the ambassador of Spain to Jordan and representative in Amman of the presidency of the European Union:

Q: What is your vision of future relations between Europe and the south-east Mediterranean countries?

A very positive and dynamic one. You have to take into account not only the already existing tradition, through history, of mutually beneficial links of different kinds, mostly cultural and human, but also the pragmatic need of the two sides to establish, on the eve of the next century which will confirm the realm of interdependence and of regional structures, a working relationship based on security, stability and well-being for all partners. That does not mean the task will be easy or different obstacles will not materialise in our way, but the final goals seem to me not only positive but unavoidable.

Q: How could Europe and the Middle East work together to combat poverty and extremism in the South?

What is most needed is more solidarity not only between governments but also in our respective societies, and above all better knowledge of one another. It is incredible how many "clichés" continue to exist on the two sides, some of them promoted by bad will and xenophobia, but mostly (stemming) out of ignorance and misplaced pride. All in all, I think the combat against poverty is an easier one, provided the right means are applied by everyone included of course the "recipient" countries, than the one against extremism. It takes a long time for mental attitudes, especially collective ones, to radically change and intolerance can sustain a strong resistance, as we know by our own experiences in Europe. Anyway, further communication and better common knowledge will help tremendously, together with the promotion of coordinated policies on both sides.

Q: There have been signs of European reluctance to commit the EU to participate positively in the October Middle East and North African (MENA) summit. What is the European argument?

I haven't seen such signs at all. On the contrary, I am personally convinced, and I am sure it is also the feeling of my colleagues, that there is an active commitment on the European Union's part to ensure, together with the rest of the participants, the success of the conference. I have made this point, since we started the Spanish presidency, to a number of Jordanian officials and I think all of them have appreciated our effort to cooperate as much as we can. You must not forget the peace process started in Europe, and Europe, before and after Madrid, has never been indifferent to the march of peace in this region and to its economic and social aspects. We have a share in it and we intend to keep it alive.

Q: How do Europeans view the setting up of a Mideast development bank?

The Europeans are ready to cooperate fully with whichever financial institution will finally be agreed upon by all the participants at the Amman conference. I think our past financial effort towards the consolidation of the economic development in the region needs not be tested. We are of course interested in the shaping of an institution which can really be profitable and sound and which can obtain and procure to the peoples in this area real and tangible advancement. We are not interested, on the contrary, in duplication of efforts neither are we obsessed by the building of machineries in themselves. We want to make sure the recipes will be the correct ones. And on that basis we are ready to continue to discuss the characteristics of the needed institution with the rest of the participants. Nobody, I think, could doubt our commitment and our serious efforts to reach a workable consensus.

Juan Manuel Cabrera

Q: What do you expect from the Barcelona conference in November regarding development aid for the Mediterranean region?

The Barcelona conference, and I would like to refer the reader to the article which appears in this very supplement on that issue, is above all a global new effort on cooperation, in many different fields, which is going to be launched and tested for the first time. Its main purpose will be to create a network of lively links which will permit to the Mediterranean countries and their peoples to be basically interdependent, and share a common space, in the beginning of the next century. The challenges, for all of us, are not only of an economic nature, but also cultural, human, technological. The development aid for the region, provided there is a good capacity of absorption, as there is in Jordan, will be dramatically increased, as was already approved at the European Council in Cannes last June.

Q: What are the priorities on the Spanish agenda in its capacity as president of the EU?

Our basic priorities, beginning with the "internal" ones, are the fight against unemployment, the continuing efforts for the creation of an economic and monetary union, the preparation of the conference which next year will review the internal mechanisms launched at Maastricht, and the consolidation of the concept of European citizenship. The most important achievement of the European construction will be for the people in each country to feel, in their everyday life, the benefits of this endeavour. Among the "external" priorities, and one of the most delicate ones is the achievement of a peaceful and just solution for the peoples of former Yugoslavia, together with the rest of the international community, a special stress and prominence is naturally given to the Middle East and the Mediterranean region, which have always been by definition one of our priority fields. We are going to continue to contribute, as much as we can and as much as we are asked by the countries in this region, to the efforts to achieve and consolidate peace and prosperity in this area to which we feel so close.

Q: How do you see the economic ties develop between Europe and Jordan in the era of peace?

The era of peace for Jordan has just started. An enormous effort is already being made by the Jordanians themselves to economically and socially profit, as much as possible, from the new situation. The Amman Economic Summit is in fact the turning point, as far as Jordan itself is concerned, of that effort, and it has been preceded by an impressive array of seminars and meetings, of project designing and of legislative change. Some people would have expected things to move faster but it was basically unrealistic, taking into account, among other factors, a comprehensive regional peace is yet to be fully achieved. The European Union, which already has assumed a leading role in developing the economic ties with Jordan, will undoubtedly be in the forefront of the new situation, making sure the huge potentials created by it will not be lost. Conversations have already started to reach a bilateral partnership agreement, linking for the first time, under a global scope, the relationship between Jordan and the EU. I also think the presence of the European private sector representatives in the Amman summit will be of a decisive importance.

Q: How do you view Spain's relationship with Jordan?

Jordan and Spain do not have a relationship, but a love affair. I have been a privileged witness to it during the last few years. It can be anyway intensified, and it should, in many fields, and I am sure we still have a lot of common challenges and potentials to which we have both to respond. Indeed the problem with all kinds of sentimental links is that the partners can fall prey to the temptation of underestimating the need of more material achievement. This is something we must both fight against with determination. There are many good results already in the cultural and economic fields, not to speak of the excellent political and institutional relationship. But there is still much more to be done. Needless to say our main asset in this bilateral endeavour is the very special and close friendship between our two Royal Families which was put, once more, into perspective by the extremely successful state visit of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia last November. This is strengthened by the spontaneous and lively links between the two peoples rejoicing in common historical trends and ready to build a common future, on both shores of the Mediterranean. Let us try to take full advantage of those two exemplary assets.

The European Union: A unique institutional structure

FIFTEEN NATIONS in Western Europe today make up the European Union (EU). Its citizens have different outlooks, opinions and approaches to life but are united by a common ideal: that of making the EU a better place to live in.

The union works with a unique institutional structure. This article intends to clarify the picture of the European bodies.

The Council of the EU or Council of Ministers is the main decision-making institution. It is composed of ministers from the 15 member states chosen according to the departments involved: foreign affairs, agriculture, industry, transport, the environment, etc. The council serves to build consensus and pass resolutions and it is the foremost legislative body. The council adopts international agreements negotiated by the commission. The General Secretariat is based in Brussels. The presidency of the council rotates changing hand every six months.

The European Council is made up of the heads of government and of state of the 15 European member states. The president of the European Commission attends in his own right. The council meets at least twice a year and discusses the important issues being examined by the union.

The European Commission is a key institution composed of 20 commissioners appointed by the member states. The commission is the executive body of the union: it implements the decisions of the Council of Ministers, submits proposals to it and administers the budget. In contrast to the secretariats of conventional international organisations, the commission has financial autonomy. It represents the union's interests and takes no instructions from individual member states. The commission is backed by a civil service, mainly located in Brussels and Luxembourg. It comprises 23 departments, called Directorate-General. The commission is represented abroad by the delegations.

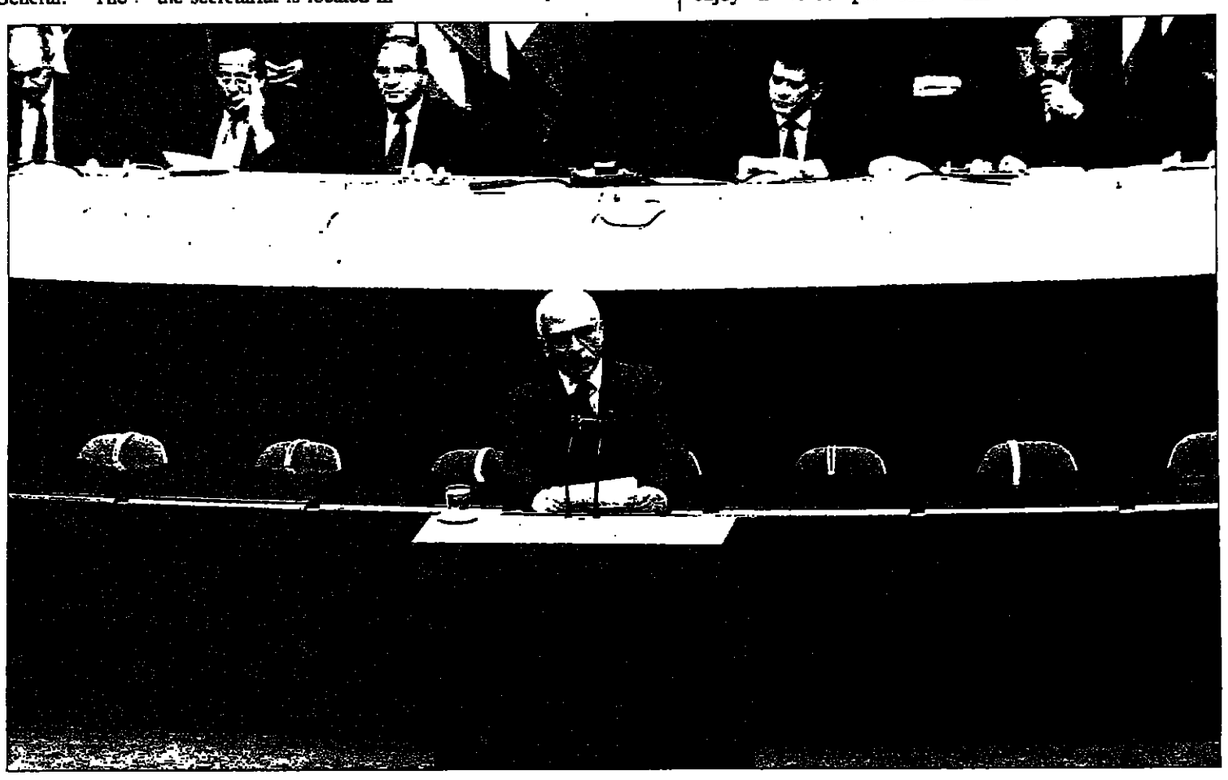
Jacques Santer

Jacques Santer took office as president of the commission in January 1995.

The European Parliament provides a democratic forum of debate. It is composed of 626 deputies directly elected by the citizens of the member states. The parliament monitors the European Commission and shares the legislative function with the Council of Ministers. It is also involved in the planning of the budget. Parliament normally meets in plenary session in Strasbourg, though the secretariat is located in Luxembourg and the usual venue for the meetings is Brussels.

The European Court of Justice monitors the joint legislation agreed in the treaties. The European Court of Auditors checks whether the community's financial affairs are properly managed.

Rounding off the institutions are the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) and the Committee of the Regions. The ECOSOC represents the various categories of economic and social activity and guarantees that trade and industry and the unions are actively involved in the development of the union. Finally, the Committee of the Region protects the interests of the many regions of the European Union.



His Majesty King Hussein addressing the European Parliament

EU and Jordan: A relationship of trust

SINCE THE signing of a cooperation agreement in 1977, The European Union and Jordan have been successfully building their relations for political cooperation, trade, industry and economic development.

Close and friendly relations between the EU and Jordan have been maintained through regular visits that are intensifying. The planned partnership agreement whose negotiations have just started and Jordan's inclusion in the new 5-year programme for the Mediterranean countries, known as the MEDA line, are further landmarks in this close relationships.

The 1977 agreement provided a framework that gave Jordan privileged economic treatment within the union regarding both the industrial and the agricultural products. Industrial products enjoy duty free access to the union, whilst certain agricultural exports enjoy a 40-80 per cent reduction in customs duties.

The agreement has been further strengthened by the "Economic, Financial and Technical Protocols." Three protocols were concluded between 1979 and 1991 and a fourth protocol is still being worked on and is supposed to be concluded in 1996. These protocols are financed by the European Commission through grants and by the European Investment Bank (EIB) through affordable loans. In all, 329 million ECUs have been provided to support Jordan's efforts to improve its industrial, agricultural, educational and social capacities.

Jordan has also benefited from a special facility (300 m ECUs) set aside for the support of structural adjustment in Mediterranean non-member countries. To date, almost one third of this facility has gone to Jordan.

The balance of trade between the EU and Jordan has been in favour of Europe. This trade relationship has not expanded as both sides would have liked. The idea of a free trade area with Europe, as planned in the future partnership, will provide an incentive for Jordan to upgrade its economic and agricultural structures to enable it to expand its economic interaction with the EU.

The EU has also provided substantial support for Jordan's agricultural sector through different projects aimed at improving the use of land for agricultural purposes and at assisting farmers through affordable credits.

In the water sector, the EU has been supporting projects that deal with all aspects of the water chain: from evaluation of new sources (e.g. Azraq oasis, Hammad and Sirhan basins) to better utilisation of existing supplies and infrastructure facilities (e.g. Mujib basin, King Abdullah Canal, Kafrein Dam) and the expansion of supply through recycling (Zarqa waste water project).

In the context of the peace process, the EU involvement in the water sector is being more and more intensified.

The EU-Jordan cooperation in the field of industry has been designed to provide Jordan with the finance, skills and the environment to develop and promote industrial production and exports. Grants and loans provided to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) have been on-lent for private sector industrial projects. Support for small business continues to be a main focus of European efforts. Specific programmes to help Jordanians suffering from the effects of the Gulf crisis were also supported.

The overall picture of European interaction with Jordan is completed with the education sector, whose focus is on science and technology. The EU finances different projects that are aimed at developing selected university faculties (e.g. the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan, the Faculty of Science at Yarmouk University, etc.) and institutions (Royal Scientific Society) to qualify an increased number of graduates and to reinforce existing science and technology research capabilities (e.g. Cooperation Project in Science and Technology). Many Jordanians have received grants to pursue their PhD studies in Europe.

Other programmes with EU support that involve Jordan are not run directly by the European Commission but through decentralised networks of cooperation. The so called Med-programmes (Med-Invest, Med-Campus and Med Urbs) enhance the transfer of technologies and the exchange of know-how by creating direct links between people, groups or organisations which share common interests and purposes. Through these networks the EU aims to improve the quality of North-South relations and, in the long term, that of South-South relations.

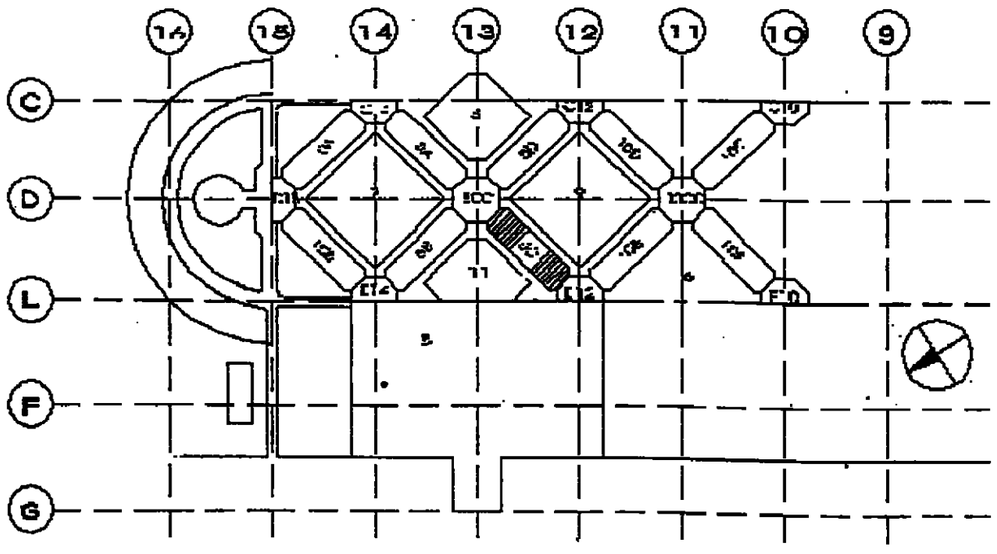
Health and social development in Jordan is also supported by the EU through direct funding to worthwhile projects or, indirectly, through NGO financing. The union provided substantial financial and humanitarian support (150 million ECUs) for Jordan in the emergency situations caused by the Gulf crisis. This aid brought a double benefit to the Jordanian economy by supporting both its balance of payments position and the government budget. The EU also provided 130 million ECUs, 30 per cent of the international effort, for programmes to support evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Today, Jordanian-European relations are ready to enter a new partnership phase that will be the culmination of the process that started back in 1977.

ENTRECANALES S.A.

(Main Contractor for the King Abdullah Hospital Project)

Wishes to congratulate the Kingdom of Jordan for its efforts for peace and development.



The Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona

THE MEDITERRANEAN Sea has, from the very first steps of history, been a privileged and unique space of cultural dynamism and prosperous trade and communication. Throughout centuries of war, dominance and colonialism, but also of mutual cooperation and efforts to radiate to other areas the scientific discoveries and the artistic creativity inherent to the successive historical momentums in this region, a slow emergence of something, difficult to define but with common characteristics, took place little by little, giving birth to what can be called a Mediterranean spirit and way of life. Today, on the threshold of the XXIst Century, the challenges and the opportunities of the peoples living in that area are, more than ever, common and the response to them, in a climate of stability and cooperation, has also to be a common one if failure and frustration for all are to be avoided.

The European Union has long sought an enhanced relationship with the other Mediterranean partners in order to create in this region an area of dialogue that will guarantee peace, stability, prosperity and well-being for those who live in it.

The general idea of such a conference was progressively shaped at the European Councils of Lisbon (June '92), Corfu (June '94) and Essen (December '94). Finally in Cannes (June '95), the main features of the new partnership to come and of the preparations for the Barcelona conference were approved, together with an unprecedented amount of funds (4.685 billion ECUs, equivalent to $6.325 billion) from which the economic and social development of the region will benefit during the next five years.

Throughout those preliminary steps, the union and its member states expressed the need of the creation of a well-structured policy that will be fit to tackle the challenges that the Euro-Mediterranean relation is going to face in the future. Although the approach needs to be necessarily a general one, the particular characteristics and distinguishing features of each country will have to be taken into consideration.

The Euro-Mediterranean conference to be held in Barcelona on Nov. 27 and 28 will be a unique opportunity for Europe and its Mediterranean partners to ensure peace, stability, prosperity and cooperation through the newly designed Euro-Mediterranean partnership, as well as to create a new global approach in the relationship between themselves.

In this respect, I would wish to point out the three main pillars of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership: A) The political and security aspects, B) The economic and financial ones, and finally C) The social and human dimension.

A) Political and security partnership

As far as the political and security aspect is concerned, the aim of all 27 participants will be to establish a number of common principles and interests acceptable to all and to whose promotion we can all commit ourselves together.

In this field, we intend to promote the adoption by all participants of a Declaration of Principles that will identify a number of objectives concerning both internal and external security.

Within this first pillar there will be two main subchapters. First the one comprising human rights, democracy and the rule of law that will, among other things, deal with fundamental freedoms, pluralism and tolerance, human rights and the respect to the basic texts like the U.N. Charter or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The second one, basically devoted to stability, security and good neighbourly relations, based on the following principles: equal sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of another partner, respect for territorial integrity, refraining from the use of force and accepting to settle all disputes peacefully, plus the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and all other types of organised crime, the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation, and finally the acceptance of confidence and security building measures as the fundamental basis of good neighbourly relations.

B) Economic and financial partnership

In this chapter, the European Union wishes to establish the necessary conditions to overcome the long-term problems of the region's economy. In this respect we would wish to accelerate the pace of social and economic development, to improve the living conditions by reducing the prosperity gap and increasing the employment level, and finally encouraging regional cooperation and integration.

The basic instrument to achieve these goals will be the creation of a medium-term Euro-Mediterranean free trade area that will aim to build a zone of shared prosperity.

The main priorities of economic trans-Mediterranean cooperation will be the following:

— Investments to promote a rapid and sustainable growth and the necessary structural reforms to ensure the success of economic development.

— The boosting of regional cooperation as the essential basis for the creation of a free trade area.

— The appeal to private and public companies to enter into business agreements such as joint ventures, marketing arrangements, subcontracting or licensing in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean area. To achieve this goal the creation of a favourable business environment will be of paramount importance, em-phasising the necessary privatisation of the non-profitable public enterprises.

—Special attention will be given to all matters related to the environment, enhancing regional cooperation programmes either through the framework of the European Union or any other relevant international organisation. The 27 partners will necessarily have to increase their efforts to protect the environment and bolster the already existing plans, such as the Mediterranean Action Plan, to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

— As far as fisheries are concerned, there is a need to recognise the importance of the conservation and of a rational management of all fish stocks.

— Energy matters will also be considered a priority, and the 27 partners will surely acknowledge the interdependence of the energy sector and will try to create the appropriate conditions to enable the much needed investments in this sector.

— Other areas that will be given a focal attention will be agricultural and rural development, infrastructure development (transport, telecommunications and information technology), and local planning, research and development and statistics.

C) Partnership in social and human affairs

The basic aim is to encourage exchanges among the civil society. Special emphasis will be placed on education, vocational training, problems related to the young people, culture and the media, migrations and health care.

We consider this third human chapter of paramount importance to bridge a number of gaps and misunderstandings which still plague our societies, and to reach, with all due respect to the respective cultural traditions, a better mutual knowledge as a valid platform not only to share experiences but to build, at a later stage, a common network of values and goals, unavoidable in the new era of world interdependence and communications.

The Barcelona conference does not intend to be an isolated initiative that will be forgotten once the last delegate leaves the conference room on November 28, this year. An ambitious Programme of Action, which will be adopted together with the Political Declaration, is expected to launch the long-term initiative in all its aspects. There will also be the necessary follow up by "ad hoc" thematic meetings at different levels (ministers, senior officials and experts). Furthermore, the EU has the intention to hold regular foreign ministers meetings that will deal with all the matters related to the problems the Mediterranean faces and will face in the future.

This exercise does not intend to be a unilateral one, with concepts, patterns and goals imposed by "the north," but a mutually beneficial two-way street, in which every step taken will be the responsibility and the making of everyone, and which will encompass all kinds of productive interlinking (north-south, but also south-south and east-west). From the beginning we have indeed welcome any suggestion or contribution from the rest of the Mediterranean partners to ensure the success and the pragmatism of the whole exercise and of the conference itself.

Finally the Euro-Mediterranean conference of Barcelona, and the Euro-Med Partnership that will be launched in this event, does not intend to become a new forum for resolving conflicts, as for example the peace process (although it aspires to help promote its success), nor does it intend to replace other regional fora that aim to promote peace and stability in the region.

The union intends to play an important and active role in the forthcoming Amman Economic Summit, making it clear that both initiatives are of a different nature regardless of the common points or positive sinergies they may share, but also in many ways complementary and aiming at a common goal of peace, stability and prosperity for the whole region.

This is the time. This is the opportunity. Let us together seize it and endeavour to work for a common future which is already here and will not wait for our action.

Juan Manuel Cabrera
Ambassador of Spain

The Schengen Agreement opens the way for free movement of people within the European Union

THE SCHENGEN Agreement stems from the Saarbucken Agreement signed between France and Germany on July 13, 1984. The agreement envisaged the gradual suppression of the common frontier controls between the two states. The states of Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) later joined the agreement. The five states signed an agreement on July 14, 1985, in the Luxembourg city of Schengen. The agreement took effect immediately after it was signed. After the Schengen agreement its complementary convention was signed on July 19, 1990. Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal have joined the group since. Austria submitted an application for membership on March 6, 1995. Sweden and Finland do not exclude the possibility of joining the Schengen club in the long term, provided that the Scandinavian Agreement on the passports will be respected. The United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark decided not to join the agreement. However, Denmark has since asked for observer status. The non-participation of these three states does not pose any major problem for the Schengen agreement as it was concluded outside the framework of the European Union. Consequently, this agreement is part of the international law and not of the European law. The agreement is, nevertheless, open only to member states of the European Union.

The Schengen agreement has two kinds of objectives. First, the easing of the common frontier controls between the contracting parties. Since June 15, 1985, the internal border controls of the Schengen states have no longer been systematic. This measure applies only the EU nationals. Second, the Schengen agreement envisages the abolition of the internal border controls on all persons, whatever their origin. This second objective is the subject of the complementary convention of June 19, 1990.

The complementary convention took effect on March 26, 1995, for all the contracting parties except for Greece and Italy due to the technical problems involved in the control of their maritime frontiers. The 142 articles which make up the convention advocate the principle of abolition of controls at the common frontiers and the transfer of these controls to the Schengen external frontiers. To make free movement technically possible, the convention set up two series of rules: first of all, a non-EU national common policy; then complementary measures to make up for the controls removed by the abolition of the internal border controls.

Common policy with respect to non-EU national

The common policy established by the convention with regard to non-EU nationals has three aspects: entry, movement and expulsion.

A. Entry

The convention establishes five common conditions of entry for non-EU nationals who wish to cross Schengen states' external borders, the most important being the demand for a visa as established by the convention, if one is required, and the demand for sufficient means of support.

With regard to the visa policy, the convention sets up a common visa that can be issued for a period between one day and three months, depending on the purpose of the visit. Visas exceeding three months are not covered by the convention. That means that the entry into the Schengen territory is limited to short periods of stay, i.e. mainly for tourists. Longer period visas remain a matter of national decision. Each Schengen state is able to issue the common visa. A common visa code gives instructions on visa issue.

A common visa policy also requires an agreement between the contracting parties on a joint list of third countries whose nationals must be in the possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Schengen territory. The task is complex as the visa policy depends on political and especially historic considerations. After long negotiations, the Schengen states agreed on three lists, one of countries which require a visa, one of visa-exempted countries and one of countries on which a common decision has not yet been taken. No addition or withdrawal of a country is possible without unanimous agreement of the contracting parties.

B. Movement

Non-EU nationals who fulfill the entry conditions laid down in the convention may move freely for up to three months within the Schengen territory. Visas exceeding the three-month period are national visas and do not give these nationals the right to move freely in the other Schengen states. Nevertheless, the convention distinguishes between third country nationals who reside in a Schengen state and the ones who do not. A Schengen resident will no longer require a visa to enter any other Schengen state, even if this visa was formally required. However, the convention does not give him the right to reside freely within another Schengen state as is the case with the EU nations. It allows him/her only short-term periods outside the state of residence.

C. Expulsion

A non-EU national who is found illegally in a Schengen state can be expelled from the common territory. The convention envisages expulsion either to the country of origin or a third country which has signed with the Schengen group an agreement on the readmission of clandestine immigrants.

A readmission agreement was concluded between the states of Schengen and Poland on March 29, 1991. The agreement obliges Poland to readmit persons (Polish or other) found to have illegally crossed the Schengen-Polish border. Similar arrangements are being concluded with other Eastern European and African countries.

Supporting measures

As the internal border controls disappear, a series of supporting measures have to be set up. First of all, a transformation of airports and seaports, then measures to fight illegal immigration and lastly, measures regarding security and police forces.

A. Adaptation of the infrastructures

Airports and seaports have to be transformed to enable the abolition of controls for Schengen internal frontiers. Airports will be considered as external borders for flights to or from third countries and internal borders for flights between Schengen states. A Jordanian, for example, who takes off from Amman and who arrives in Paris will be controlled on his arrival (external flight). If he then wishes to fly from Paris to Bonn, he will no longer be subject to any further controls (internal flight).

B. Fight against illegal immigration

Free movement of people in an area without internal border controls requires mutual confidence of the Schengen states in the controls applied by each one at their external borders. Nevertheless, some crossing points of the external frontier, such as the Mediterranean border for example, could be more vulnerable than others. The convention stipulates certain provision to fight illegal immigration. First of all, carriers will have to check if passengers are in possession of adequate documents when they enter into the Schengen area. They could be sanctioned in case of negligence. Sanctions are also meted out to employers using illegal manpower. Lastly, hotels are required to obtain a declaration as well as an identity paper from the customers.

C. Measures on security and on police

The convention sets up the Schengen Information System (SIS), renamed the European Information System (EIS) by the European Council of Maastricht. The EIS is a data-processing system which is made up of a central file (C-EIS) located in Strasbourg and a network of national files (N-EIS) situated in the Schengen states. The system allows a rapid exchange of data on persons and objects (mainly weapons and narcotics) among the police forces and customs agencies of the Schengen states. Border posts will be able to use terminals which are linked with the EIS. The same information is made available at diplomatic missions abroad, for issuing visas.

The convention expressly guarantees that personal data contained in the EIS files will be used in a strictly limited way. To enforce this point, it refers several times to the convention on the protection of personal data of the Council of Europe of Jan. 18, 1981.

The complementary convention promotes police cooperation. This cooperation takes various shapes, such as observation, cross-border pursuits and a common network of radio communication in the frontier regions. A safety clause enables the Schengen states to temporarily restore the internal border controls in exceptional cases. The convention also emphasises judicial cooperation. This includes in particular mutual aid (implementation of judgements, letters of request, searches, seizures), the simplification of extradition proceedings and harmonisation of policies and legislations (weapons, narcotics, etc.).

Conclusion

The Schengen agreement aims to create a single market in which all persons, whatever their origin, will be able to move freely. However, they limit the movement of third-country nationals in the Schengen area. Sejours exceeding three months, and therefore immigration policies, remain a matter of national decision. The complementary convention introduces a series of provisions to compensate for the abolition of border controls between the Schengen states. These measures aim to reinforce external frontiers. They also emphasise the fight against illegal immigration and the cooperation between police forces.

INSTITUTO CERVANTES

The Cervantes Institute announces the start of the Spanish language courses for all levels on October 1st 1995.

Registration opens on September 10th 1995.

For more information, please call Tel.: 610858

A great retaurant that gets better year after year

Authentic Italian Cuisine
Established 1977

Open : Lunch 12:30 - 3:30
Dinner 7:30 - 11:30
Located in Amman Financial District
Shmeisani, Tel : 662441 / 606281

Home Delivery
FREE
Live Music - Free Valet Parking

Islam in Europe: A variety of approaches

BETWEEN EIGHT and 15 million Muslims live today in the European Union. Their presence is the consequence of migratory trends from the former colonial empires of Asia, Africa and the Caribbeans which massively headed towards Western Europe in the early sixties. With the official cut down of labour immigration in 1974 and the development of family grouping policies which went with it, the establishment of those populations for an indefinite period of time became irreversible. But the demand for "visibility" of Islam arouses questions, doubts and oppositions, some of which violent, about the integration of the newcomers in the different national societies. Islam is no more a discreet phenomenon as it was in the fifties, but it became a religion like any other whose followers seek full acknowledgement.

The fact is that the Islam of the North Africans in France is very different from that of the Pakistanis in Great Britain, the Turks in Germany or the Surinam people in the Netherlands. Those differences stem more from the great variety of cultural systems in the many countries the Muslim populations originate from rather than from the place Islam occupied in these countries, since the big majority of Muslims in Europe come from countries where Islam is either the state religion or the religion of the majority. Transplanted in a mainly non-Muslim environment, the migrants find themselves in an unprecedented situation. This experience of forming a minority will not be felt in the same way due to the cultural traditions and the national circumstances of each host society. Thence a double attraction contributes to the shaping of the condition of Muslims in Europe: one oriented towards Dar-Al-Islam and the country of origin and the other towards the specificity of each European nation.

One actually realises that in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium the relationship between Islam as it exists in the home country greatly influences the representation that their populations have of their being Muslims. The result is that the organisation of the communities in the different host societies is based more upon solidarities with national and ethnical character rather than upon a reference to the "Umma". This situation is helped by the policies of the home countries of the migrants which are eager to maintain a link with their citizens wherever they are and who tend to impose themselves to the European states as partners in their ways to dealing with Islam.

But the status of minorities also depends to a big extent on the conceptions of the nations prevailing among the European states, which reflect not only on the way of acquiring the nationality or on the policies towards the migrants, but also on the status granted to religions in the public space. For example, Germany considers the immigrants as "gastarbeiter," or "guest workers," who came temporarily within the framework of labour migration, and for them German citizenship is very difficult to get. The result has been the self-organisation of Islam within structures narrowly linked with the countries of origin. France has a fundamentally different approach: according to the "right of the earth" (or "jus solis" in Latin – as opposed to "jus sanguinis" or the right of the blood) doctrine, the children of the migrants are bound to become nationals, and thereafter citizens.

In the Netherlands and in Great Britain, the political tradition is to respect the characterstic identities of peoples and to acknowledge the existence of the communities in the public space. This is not the case in France where a concept of a nation founded on the allegiance of the citizen-individual prevails. And then comes the extreme variety of status granted to religions in the different European states, even though the principle of separation of the church and state and the freedom of faith are common to all. French secularism is opposed to the German concept in which religions are taken into account by the law, whereas in England, where the Queen is the Chief of the Anglican Church, Islam is taught in schools.

Nowadays, each of the European states has to face a new situation which is the institutionalisation of Islam in the framework of the existing legislations. Several initiatives have been taken in this direction, with the foundation of institutions meant to settle questions regarding the construction of mosques, the status of imams or halal meat.

Young Muslims during prayers at the Central Mosque in Regent's Park, London

From Messina, Europe looks towards future

A EUROPE with "institutions that may allow it to become stronger, more democratic, and more effective." The great objectives of the Treaty of Maastricht were clearly indicated in Messina "Solemn Declaration" of June 2, 1995, during the 40th anniversary of the conference which had paved the way towards European integration.

The Messina "rendezvous", which was from the very beginning considered by the Italian government as something more than just a celebration, has become the starting point of a new era in our endeavours to build the European Union. This was due first to the fact that 15 ministers for foreign affairs, meeting in Messina, together with the president of the European Parliament and the president of the European Commission, were able to define, for the first time, the main issues to be dealt with while re-examining the Treaty of Maastricht and also because during the same occasion a "Study Group" of selected "wise men" was created, with the duty of preparing for the inter-governmental conference which will adopt the modifications to the treaty, necessary for overcoming the many challenges which the European Union will have to face.

The Union must be able to fully carry out its role in the world, while upholding the values which inspire it. It must also give major importance to its own historical, political and moral identity as well as the richness of its many cultures and to the respect of the rights of the citizens. This was written in the declaration signed by French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, president in office of the Council of Ministers, by the president of the European Parliament, Klaus Haensch and by the president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer.

On the whole, the meeting which took place in Messina was a new important phase in the process which had started on March 25, 1957, with the signing of the Treaty of Rome, following the meeting which had taken place two years earlier in Messina itself between the foreign ministers of Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. During the occasion, the representatives of the six-member states of the European Coal and Steel Community agreed upon "relaunching" Europe after the setback caused by the failure of the Community for European Defence. Moreover, they underlined the need to "continue the process of creation of a united Europe, through the development of joint institutions, the progressive fusion of national economies, the creation of a common market and progressive harmonisation of national policies."

These were clear words, of great importance for the future, as indicated by the president of the Italian Republic, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, in a message addressed to the European leaders attending the meeting which took place in Messina. "If the many deadlines which the European Union will have to respect will be faced with the courage and the far-sightedness of those who attended the 1955 Messina meeting, and of those who continued along their steps with the same spirit and ideals, the great adventure of European unification will be able to continuously boost new achievements." President Scalfaro underlined the need to achieve "further improvements so as to ensure that European integration will become "more effective both at national and international levels." President Scalfaro added that "citizens of member states must become fully aware of the fact that they are part of a unique community, founded on the aspect of those values which have nurtured our civilisation."

Italian foreign minister, Susanna Agnelli, similarly expressed her conviction that the European Union must be conceived as "a political and intellectual adventure, an idea capable of mobilising women and men in our countries and who intend to commit themselves to a future characterised by freedom, tolerance and fulfillment of one's own aspirations, while firmly rejecting national divisions." Foreign Minister Agnelli expressed hope that "our dreams of today may become reality before another 40 years have elapsed."

It is from Messina that Europe ideally started working again in order to modify itself, in order to become more "transparent," more respectful of its citizens, so as to be able to enlarge without loosing its characteristics, and to bring about increasingly effective common foreign and security policies. The challenges that await Europe are indeed many, in view of the inter-governmental conference for the revision of the Treaty of Maastricht which is scheduled for the first half of 1996, during the Italian semester of presidency of the European Union. The first of such challenges is represented by the states wishing to join the community. In the solemn Declaration of Messina one can read that the process of revision of the Treaty of European Union "must give answers to the aspirations of European peoples and lead to the extension of the European Union."

The extensions of membership to central European countries, to Malta and to Cyprus is unanimously defined as "an imperative" which must be handled in an effective and successful way. Thus, the modification of institutions becomes even more necessary so as to avoid that a more extensive union might loose the characteristics which made it a successful model, while witnessing the coexistence of the "richness of diversity and depth of integration," to use the words of the Italian minister for foreign affairs.

The issues related to "institutional reforms" (especially the adoption of the majority vote, a proposal strongly backed by Italy, as well as by oher countries) might give way to the "different sensibilities", the existence of which was not denied by the president of the "Study Group", Carlos Westendorp, personal representative of the Spanish foreign minister, at the end of the first meeting of the 18 "wise men" in charge of preparing the agenda of the inter-governmental conference. "Consensus is important," Mr. Westendorp said, yet "it is even more important to clearly define all the options possible." The Italian representative of the "Study Group," Silvio Fagiolo, added: "There will be less abstract and ideological debates if compared to the phase which led to the stipulation of the Treaty of Maastricht. However, I do not believe that the challenges will be any less."

The international presence of the European Union is the other important issue to be discussed by the 15 participants. Such an issue must not be momentarily set aside, while urgent international issues seem to undermine the importance of a Europe speaking with one voice and acting unitedly so as to contribute to peace and security.

"The European Union must have an international identity based on a coherent foreign policy," Mrs. Agnelli said while adding that European foreign policy is at the moment "partly incomplete and over-ambitious."

During the inter-governmental conference, Italy will support the institution of a Secretariat General, a permanent body with the duty of analysing, elaborating, proposing and implementing the decisions of the Council of Ministers; a "Supraministry" for a Europe which must necessarily proceed in an orderly and systematic way.

أبو شقرة
ABU SHAKRA

أكبر ممثل للشركات والوكالات
الفرنسية في الأردن
The Biggest Representative Of
French Companies
And Brands In Jordan

CHANEL * BOUCHERON * Cartier * Christian Dior
ROCHAS * NINA RICCI * JEAN PATOU * ungaro
GIVENCHY * GIORGIO ARMANI * paco rabanne
Yves Rocher * Christofle * Baccarat * LALIQUE * Daum

Alitalia: connected to the world

ALITALIA
flies 4 times a week to
ROME

Days	Dep. Amman	Arr. Rome
Sun, Mon	07.30	10.55
Fri	10.20	15.45 *
Sat	12.10	15.35
Days	**Dep. Rome**	**Arr. Amman**
Sun	09.20	16.15 *
Tue	09.20	14.20
Thu	12.00	17.00
Sat	10.10	15.10

Please contact your Travel Agent or our offices at :
ALITALIA
Ticketing / Reservation office
Jabal El-Hussein / Karim Center Bldg.
Tel.: 625203 - 636038
Amman - Jordan

Alitalia

Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1. THE MEDITERRANEAN is strategically important to the European Union and to the countries belonging to the Mediterranean basin. Thus one of the priorities of the countries of the region should be to consolidate peace and stability. This challenging task would involve, among others:

— supporting political reform and defending human rights and freedom of expression;
— promoting economic and social reform in such a way as to produce sustained growth (to create jobs) and an increase in standards of living.

At the time when this long-term objective (year 2010) will be achieved, all the Mediterranean countries and the Med-European countries would benefit from an improvement in the region's stability and prosperity and this would greatly increase the opportunity for trade and investment and provide a stronger foundation for political and economic cooperation.

But time is essential not only for political reasons, but also for economic and social reasons. It is consequently very much in the Mediterranean community's interest to establish a new partnership to move beyond the scope of activities bolstered by the New Mediterranean Policy (1992-1996), important though they are.

2. In order to achieve these ambitious objectives, the European Union is proposing three closely connected priorities for action:

— assistance during the economic transition;
— assistance for achieving a better socio-economic balance;
— backing for regional integration.

(i) the transition from protectionism to free-trade will be facilitated by establishing a Euro-Med free-trade zone within 12 years, supporting the private sector, increasing direct foreign investment and joint ventures, rehabilitating/creating economic and social infrastructures;

(ii) the second objective, namely to ensure a better socio-economic balance through the development of human resources, would be addressed by improving social services, including education, through alleviating poverty, strengthening the civil society, and the environment protection.

As an example, the following fields could benefit from this support:

— improving social services, particularly in towns;
— promoting harmonious and integrated rural development;
— greater cooperation in fisheries;
— protection of the environment;
— contribution of the civil society to development;
— integrated development of human resources (particularly education and vocational training);
— consolidation of democracy and respect for human rights (an essential component of the community's relations with the countries in question);
— support for cultural exchanges;
— cooperation and technical assistance in order to reduce illegal immigration, drug trafficking as well as terrorism and international crime.

(iii) the third objective, support to regional integration, will be approached in several ways including:

— encouraging Mediterranean countries that have concluded association agreements with the EU and to negotiate similar agreements among themselves;
— applying, when possible, cumulative rules of origin to trade among the Mediterranean countries and between them and the EU;
— supporting sub-regional groupings;
— helping to finance regional infrastructures, including priorities established in the context of the Middle East peace process.

The European Union would consider supporting this regional process by providing encouragement and assistance, as appropriate, for the creation of regional cooperation structures; EIB loans and budget resources could be drawn upon to finance the economic infrastructure that is essential if regional trade is to be speeded up, especially in the field of transport, communication and energy.

The same instruments, namely budget resources and EIB loans, could be used in order to achieve the objectives outlined above, in such a way as to ensure optimum consistency.

3. From the operational perspective, it is worth recalling the various bilateral negotiations between the EU and Mediterranean states from Mashreq and Maghreb which have already started and which have been finalised (Tunisia, Israel).

Jordan has recently (July 18) started the official negotiation rounds with the EU representatives in Brussels.

Several technical missions will visit Jordan shortly, and will discuss with their Jordanian counterparts, among other issues, industrial standards and quality control, agricultural processed products, rules of origin and intellectual property, with the objective of upgrading Jordan's production sector's competitiveness witin a reasonable time framework (5 to 12 years, depending on the sectors), while mitigating the negative social impact of this major endeavour which should project Jordan into the 21st century with a befitting economy.

Parallel with these bilateral talks, multilateral discussions between the 15 EU member states and the southern Mediterranean countries will continue, and conferences, such as the one in Barcelona scheduled for late November 1995, should provide a comprehensive framework to all the parties concerned, and cover economic and financial aspects as well as political cooperation in various fields, from security to social exchanges.

This multilateral element will also constitute the necessary link between the global objectives pursued by the different parties to reach stability and prosperity for all the members of the partnership. It will consequently reinforce the regional element of cooperation in the Mediterranean basin, a must for facing the challenges of the 21st century.

Yves Gazzo
Head of Delegation
of the European Commission

The Arab World Institute builds bridges of understanding

THE ARAB World Institute (AWI) project took a number of years to materialise. However, in December 1987 it became a reality. Paris now has an institute devoted to the furtherance of the Arab culture.

At the very end of the Boulevard Saint-Germain, in Paris' Latin Quarter, rises the Institut du Monde Arabe, marking the transition from one urban landscape, ancient and dense, to another, less compact and more recent. The western tip -- the first to be noticed when one comes from the boulevard -- houses the "library tower," designed in such a way as to enable the works available on the shelves to be seen from the outside through the transparent facade. The elegantly curved northern facade reflects the changing harmonies of the Seine and the buildings facing it on Ile Saint Louis. On the southern side, overlooking the Faculty of Sciences, the architect imagined a variation on the theme of the Arab Moucharabied (a balcony of sorts closed in with grating). A photoelectric cell which opens and closes diaphragms doses the light according to its variations. The nine-storey edifice, made of glass and metal, houses a total of 26,900 square metres, and is the work of Jean Nouvel, Pierre Soria, Gilbert Lezenes and the Architecture Studio. They were selected following a competition in December 1981.

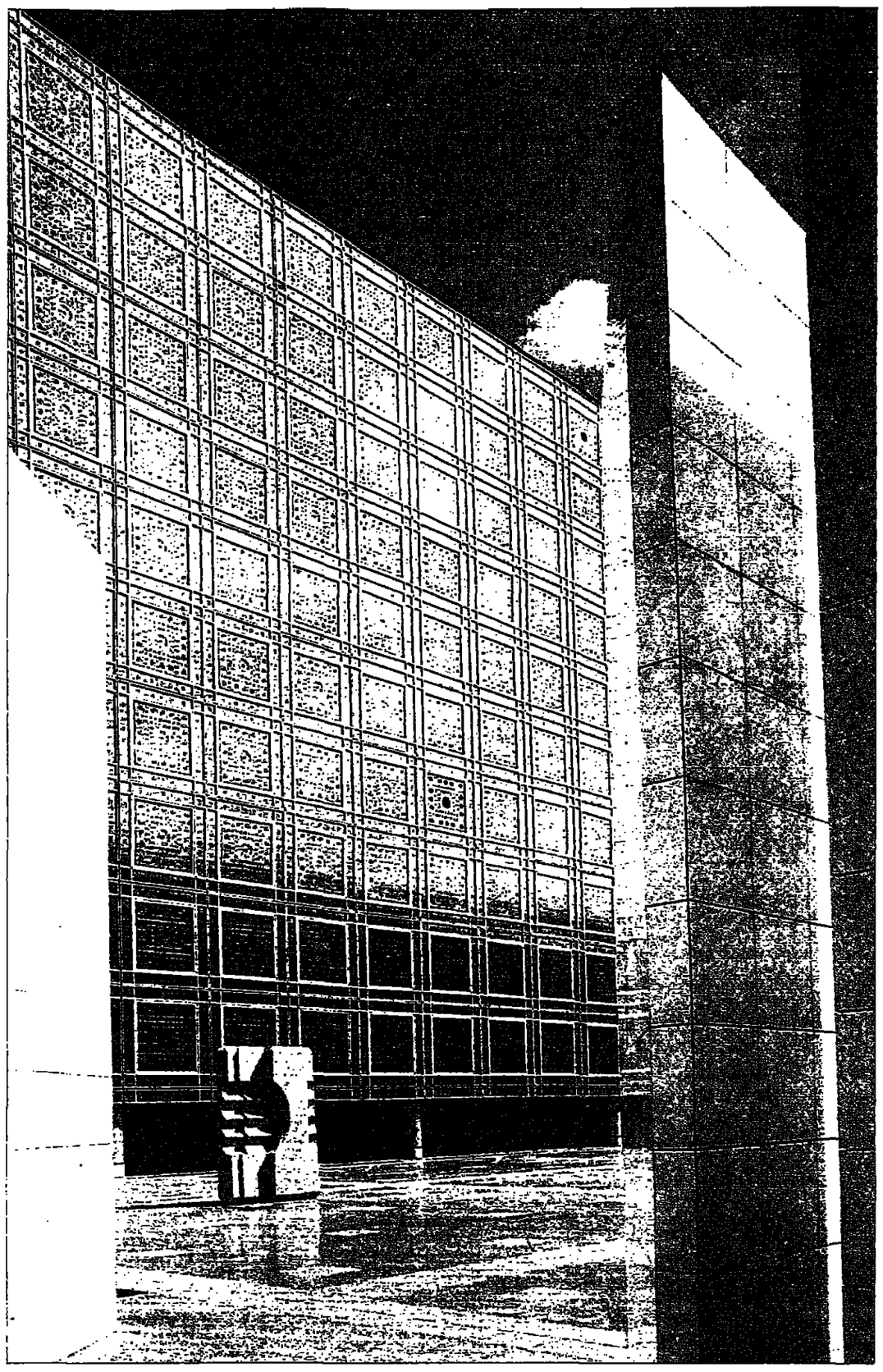
The necessity of an institution such as this one however became apparent immediately following World War II. General De Gaulle was one of the first to envisage it. But it wasn't until Oct. 27, 1974, that Jacques Chirac's government approved its creation. And six more years passed before the act authorising its building was signed by France and the twenty ambassadors of the Arab countries who accepted to participate in the project (since then, Egypt and Libya have also joined the organisation). Placed under the authority of a high council, composed of representatives of all the member states and a board of directors, the AWI began its work. Its goal is "to develop knowledge of the Arab World, to animate in-depth research into its language and its cultural and spiritual values, and to enhance exchanges and cooperation, particularly in the areas of science and technology, between France and the Arab World, thereby contributing to the development of relations between the Arab World and Europe."

An initial project stipulated a location in the 15th arrondissement. Following difficult transactions, it was decided that the land would be utilised for sports activities. The city granted a 99-year lease on the bank of Seine for the construction of the building. Financing was provided in equal proportion by France, on the one hand, and the Arab countries, on the other.

The institute comprises various organisations, first of all a museum. A loan by the Louvre of a major portion of its Arab-Islamic treasures constitutes the basis of its collections which are exhibited on five levels. Contemporary art, beginning in the '50s is also on display.

There is also a library comprising 40,000 volumes which can be consulted freely and 800 periodicals in Arabic. All the works which have appeared since 1980 on and in Arab countries are available. Room was also found in the AWI for a documentation centre, a current events room, and a restaurant.

After almost eight years of operations an average of 400,000 visitors come to the institute every year. The fame of its principal architect is fortunate for the institute. The contribution on the part of the Arab countries is more particularly devoted to operations of prestige and major exhibits. France provides the day to day activities and the Arab countries the special features. Henceforth participation is in proportions of 60% for France and 40% for the Arab countries. Edgar Pisani, its present chairman, is seeking to lend new impetus to the institute. He has placed the stress on communications, internal and external, with the help of the media. He is increasing the number of events which put the institute in the forefront and encourage Parisians to go to the Quai Saint Bernard. The AWI is a young institution which is particularly attractive to specialists and scholars. The challenge today is worthwhile: that of attracting the larger public and of playing an active role in furthering the public's knowledge of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean and in the Near East.



The southern facade of the Arab World Institute with Jordanian artist Mona Saudi's sculpture in the middle

The complex stairways and windows of the Arab World Institute

The Arab World Institute seen from the Right bank, with the Sully Bridge in the foreground

The opening and closing of the diaphragms is regulated by a photoelectric cell specially designed by CGEE-Alsthom.

One feature of the Arab World Institute is its museum, housed on five floors and spanning the period from the 7th to the 19th century.

AIR FRANCE

3 flights a week

	SATURDAY	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
AMMAN ↓	23h59	06h30	06h30
PARIS	06h00	12h20	12h20

	SATURDAY	MONDAY	THURSDAY
PARIS ↓	14h00	11h20	11h20
AMMAN	21h40	18h45	18h45

Reservations : Tel: 666255 - 667624
Sales Office Tel: 696317/8

Air France has launched new services & products for the families under the name "Planète Bleue".

A policy that will give children (Infants to 12 years) more attention & services, on ground & inflight, in order to enjoy their trip. These services include: Comfort, health, favorable food, amusement & games.

"Planète Bleue" entertains the children & makes the flight more pleasent for the parents.

Fly Planète Bleue, & the children will fly happy...

PLANETE BLEUE

AIR FRANCE

AIR FRANCE

3 Vols Par Semaine

	SAMEDI	MARDI	VENDREDI
AMMAN ↓	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PARIS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	SAMEDI	LUNDI	JEUDI
PARIS ↓	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMMAN	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Reservations : Tel: [illegible] - 667624
Agence: Tel: [illegible]

Un nouveau monde de services pour les familles voyageant avec Air France. Bébés, enfants de 2 à 12 ans et mineurs non accompagnés sont encore mieux dorlotés par Air France. **Planète Bleue** leur propose de nouveaux menus spécialement composés pour eux (à commander dès la réservation ou à l'achat du billet) des pochettes de jeux individuelles sur les vols long-courriers et pour tous de nouvelles distractions et des cadeaux.

Voyager avec Planète Bleue et vos enfants voleront heureux

PLANETE BLEUE

AIR FRANCE

Jordan and Germany

40 years of friendship

THE FIRST German representation in Jordan was established on Nov. 17, 1953, in the form of a branch office at the German embassy in Baghdad. On Oct. 25, 1959, this office was upgraded to an embassy. Between May 13, 1965, and February 26, 1967, diplomatic relations between the two countries were interrupted. On February 27, 1967, the German embassy in Amman reopened and the relations between the two countries have ever since developed in a very positive and mutually fruitful manner.

State visits

Chancellor Helmut Kohl paid two official visits to Jordan in October 1983 and in June 1995. The first state visit of President Richard von Weizsacker outside Europe was paid to Jordan in February 1985. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were hosted many times by the German leaders over the past years. Their last official visit to Germany was in August 1994.

In 1991 Federal Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Carl-Dieter Spranger and Federal Minister for Family Affairs Hannelore Ronsch visited Amman. Federal Minister of Education Dr. Rainer Ortleb and Federal Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel came to Jordan in 1993 and 1994. The Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs Dr. Norbert Blum visited Jordan in 1994. Dr Johannes Rau, president of the German Upper House ('Bundesrat') and prime minister of the State of North Rhine Westphalia paid an official visit to Jordan in March 1995. A second visit of the Federal Minister for Cooperation and Development Carl-Dieter Spranger was scheduled for the end of August 1995.

Excellent relations between Germany and Jordan are also reflected by quite a number of visits of parliamentary delegations in both directions.

Economic relations

The Federal Republic of Germany is the third largest trade partner of Jordan. German exports to Jordan reached DM477 million in 1994, i.e. 7.8 per cent of the total Jordanian imports. On the other hand, the Jordanian exports to Germany increased in 1994 by 18 per cent up to a total of DM14.2 million. Indicating the growing German commercial interest in Jordan, the BfAI (Federal Office for Information on Economy) appointed a resident representative in Amman in April 1995.

Within the financial cooperation between Germany and Jordan, the Kingdom received so far loans in the amount of DM1.343 billion. This includes the special support to alleviate the economic damages suffered by Jordan as a result of the Gulf conflict, amounting to 330 million in grants and DM32 million in soft loans.

The German financial development aid to Jordan is concentrated on the water sector. Several projects in this field, such as water supply for Greater Amman, sewage system in Irbid, and the sewage canal Amman-Al Samra, are currently under implementation.

Furthermore, small- and medium-sized Jordanian industries are financed by loans granted by the German Development Bank (KfW). New agreements concerning this project, together with an agreement concerning the structural adjustment programme for the agricultural sector amounting to DM30 million, were recently signed in Amman.

Germany also plays a leading role in the field of technical cooperation with Jordan. Almost DM456 million have been granted until now. The annual German contribution under this programme ranges between DM12 and DM15 million. At present, 20 projects are carried out in several fields, mainly in the water, agriculture, health care and veterinary medicine sectors. More than 20 short- and long-term experts are assigned to Jordan to promote these projects.

Over and above, equipment and material worth DM20 million were received by the police and civil defence departments under a special agreement concluded with the Federal Ministry of Interior.

Germany has contributed substantial food aid to Jordan bilaterally and via the EU aid to UNRWA.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that Jordan is among those countries which receive the highest German per capita aid.

Cultural relations

The cultural relations are regulated by the Cultural Agreement which was concluded in 1979.

An important part of the cultural cooperation is the scholarship programme of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). A large number of scholarships for advanced studies is granted annually: In 1995, eight post-graduate scholarships were awarded and 18 post-graduate scholarships were extended, in addition to 13 short-term scholarships for scientists and nine intensive language courses for students. For the first time, the DAAD sponsored the studies of six Palestinian students at Jordanian universities. At present, 26 Jordanians are studying in Germany on scholarships of DAAD.

With the financial support of DAAD, 16 German professors visited Jordanian universities in 1995 whilst eight Jordanian professors gave lectures at German universities. Furthermore, DAAD is financing two German lecturers at the University of Jordan in Amman and at Yarmouk University in Irbid respectively.

Another German institution active in the field of research and scholarships is the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation. It granted one scholarship in 1994 and is financing at present four Jordanian scientists who work at German universities. The Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation donated electronic laboratory equipment worth DM53,000 to the Mu'ta University in Karak.

The German Research Foundation (DFG) made several book donations for the University of Jordan and the Yarmouk University.

The Goethe Institute in Amman is very active and organises exhibitions, films and concerts, in addition to its very successful language programme.

Several German foundations such as Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung are cooperating with Jordanian organisations and institutions in political, environmental and social fields.

Last but not least archaeology represents another field where Germany has been traditionally very supportive, particularly in Umm Qais (excavations) and Petra (stone conservation). German archaeologists are regularly supported by the Federal budget.

WORLD MARKET KÖLN MESSE

THE GERMAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT & TECHNOLOGY FAIR AMMAN' 96 (29.5 — 9.6.1996) AMMAN — JORDAN HIGH LIGHTS THE INCARNATION OF THE FRUITFUL COOPERATION AND THE ECONOMICAL BILITERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND GERMANY.

COLOGNE IS THE TOP EXHIBITION CENTRE WORLDWIDE FOR OVER 25 BRANCHES AND SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

Köln Messe

معارض كولون / المانيا ، ملتقى التجارة العالمية

The GERMAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT & TECHNOLOGY FAIR will take place in Amman-Jordan from 29th May to 9th June 1996, at Marj Al-Hamam Fairgrounds, which organized by KÖLN MESSE-Germany and AL-Mohanned Trading & Development Corp., the sole agents of Köln Messe in Jordan. This fair will cover over than 17 sectors of economy activities as: construction, building material and machinery, engineering consultants and contractors for roads, harbours, airports, dams & buildings, power stations & electricity installations, recycling & environment technology, industrial machinery for pharmaceutical, medical, chemical and foodstuff industries, packaging machinery, material & equipments, besides water & irrigation technology, communication & telecommunications, hospital supplies & equipments, automobiles & automobile products, furniture manufacturing materials & equipments, electrical & electronic household products, aviation, fire lighti..g systems, beverages, equipments, machinery, raw materials for manufacturing soft drinks (Coca cola, pepsi Cola.. etc.), oil industry besides several products and services.

The well-known german manufacturers will introduce themselves at the fair and offer their Partnership as well as their products & services. It is an important event for all businessmen, government principals, exporters and importers to meet in the same time and from different countries like: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, U.A.E., Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Iran ... etc., under one place for doing fruitful business.

Köln Messe-Germany is the-top exhibition Centre worldwide for over 25 branches and sectors of the economy. The Cologne International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions Corporation stages 40 specialized trade fairs and exhibitions on a regular basis for major sectors of industy and arranges trade fair participations and export exhibitions both in Germany and abroad. The scheduled fairs staged in Cologne at different intervals-most of which are only open to businessmen visistors, regularly bring together almost 36,000 exhibitor and 2,100,000 million buyers and visitors from 165 countries around the world. The 40 specialized trade fairs and exhibitions in Cologne occupy a total of 3,2 million square metres of covered exhibition space. Up to 90% of world export production is represented at these fairs and, on a verage, half of the exhibitors and a third of all visitors come from abroad. So, Cologne's importance as a centre for the exchange of products, ideas, know-how, and information extends worldwide, especially to threshhold & developing countries, which are regularly represented as exhibitors in Cologne, as well as the former East European State trading countries, which are also among Cologne's regular exhibitors. Köln Messe provides exactly the right concepts for entire markets. A successful trade fair policy requires close cooperation with all sectors of the industry or industries involved and a detailed knowledge of their specific needs and requirements worldwide. Köln Messe's extensive and future-oriented worldwide marketing activities geared towards making its events truly international provide an ideal basis for multilateral business. The world, the market and Cologne are simply in-separable. Köln Messe's business is boosting the business of exhibitors and buyers. Köln Messe is a great address for world Trademarks of success.

الوكلاء العامون في الاردن ، مؤسسة المهند للتنمية والتجارة ، هاتف ٦٩٤٤٣٦ فاكس ٦٩٢٩٤٧

Ani Group

Dress embroidered by Francois Lesage

A panorama of French haute couture

FASHION DESIGN in France is the privilege of a few grands couturiers and about five dozen designers of international repute. This Parisian luxury craft also leads to numerous related activities.

Ils sont 22. Pas un de plus dans le club très fermé de la Haute Couture parisienne.

Les noms de cette aristocratie de la mode: Balmain, Pierre Cardin, Carven, Chanel, Christian Dior, Emmanuel Ungaro, Givenchy, Grès, Guy Laroche, Hanae Mori, Jean-Louis Scherrer, Lanvin, Lecoanet-Hemaut, Louis Féraud, Nina Ricci, Paco Rabanne, Per Spook, Philippe Venet, Ted Lapidus, Torrente, et, dernier en date, Christian Lacroix sans oublier, bien sûr, Yves Saint-Laurent, "le grand."

Etre admis - et rester - membre de la très sélective Chambre syndicale de la couture parisienne exige de respecter plusieurs conditions: employer au minimum 20 personnes dans ses propres ateliers; faire défiler devant la presse à Paris chaque saison, c'est-à-dire deux fois par an une collection (printemps-été, automne-hiver) d'au moins 75 modèles originaux sur trois mannequins vivants; présenter cette même collection au minimum 45 fois par an à la clientèle privée dans les propres salons de la maison de couture. Des maisons dont le siège se situe d'ailleurs dans une prestigieuse partie du 8ème arrondissement de Paris, proche des Champs-Elysées, appelée le Triangle d'or.

La création obéit à des rites, immuables. Le couturier ébauche la "ligne" de sa collection au bout de son crayon... ou de ses doigts si, comme Madame Grès, il drape ses mannequins. Ces esquisses retravaillées sont interprétées dans une toile écrue. Essayé, transformé, rectifié au millimètre près pour un tombé parfait, le prototype devient un patron coupé dans le tissu choisi par le créateur. Sa réalisation en est confiée aux ouvrières hautement qualifiées des ateliers maison.

Présentés lors des défilés, filmés, photographiés, ces modèles exclusifs sont achetés soit par quelques-unes des trois mille clientes privées existant dans le monde pour la haute (et très chère) couture, soit par des acheteurs étrangers autorisés à les reproduire à quelques exemplaires, dans des conditions contrôlées.

Ainsi la Haute Couture constitue-t-elle un laboratoire de recherche exceptionnel, comme les prototypes de formule Un pour l'industrie automobile: invention de coupes audacieuses, création de textiles étonnants (Pierre Cardin a lancé le nylon cloqué, le vinyl), aux motifs inédits.

Star de la maille

Les couturiers font aussi vivre, surtout à Paris, un artisanat de luxe unique dont les divers métiers - brodeurs, passementiers, fabricants de fleurs ou de boutons - sont regroupés sous l'appellation de paruriers.

Côtoyant cette élite, une soixantaine de "créateurs de mode" produisent un prêt-à-porter de qualité, en petites séries, à partir de modèles dessinés par eux. Et qui subiront aussi les feux des projecteurs lors des grandes messes des défilés suivis deux fois par an par des milliers d'acheteurs, surtout étrangers, de journalistes et de photographes. Défilés qui ont lieu depuis plusieurs années dans la Cour Carrée du Louvre.

Quelques noms: Angelo Tarlazzi, Azzedine Alaïa - spécialiste du moulant "stretch" - Cerruti, Chantal Thomass, Dorothée Bis, Emmanuelle Kahn, Jean-Paul Gaultier - l'as des détournements insolents -, Sonia Rykiel - star de la maille -, les japonais Kenzo et Issey Miyaké. La frontière avec la Haute Couture n'est d'ailleurs pas si étanche, puisque deux d'entre eux - Karl Lagerfeld et Claude Montana - conçoivent aussi les modèles de Chanel pour le premier et Lanvin pour le second.

Si les diktat de jadis sur la longueur des jupes ou le choix des couleurs font aujourd'hui sourire (on ne parle plus que de "tendance") les couturiers lancent des idées qui passeront dans la vie quotidienne, dans "la rue" comme on dit: les premiers collants noirs, les "bodies", la robe-chasuble étaient des inventions de Cardin! Et les industriels de l'habillement s'en inspirent pour produire en masse.

Contrepartie d'une qualité irréprochable, les coûts de production: 150 à 1.000 heures pour réaliser, en grande partie à la main, un modèle Haute Couture qui sera vendu entre 50.000 et 500.000 F. Aussi, peu de maisons de couture s'autofinancent-elles, à l'exception d'Yves Saint-Laurent. La plupart appartiennent à des groupes financiers puissants, français ou étrangers, aux activités multiples. Bernard Arnault-Associés gère Dior et Lacroix, le groupe LVMH (Louis Vuitton-Moët-Hennessy) Givenchy. Le japonais Seibu associé à Hermès contrôle Jean-Louis Scherrer.

Les couturiers ont aussi développé des lignes de prêt à porter moins coûteuses à fabriquer et vendues dans leurs nombreuses boutiques ou les "corners" de grands magasins.

Mais, c'est surtout en exploitant leur nom par le biais des "licences" que les créateurs s'en sortent financièrement. Ils autorisent des entreprises à produire et à vendre, sous leur contrôle, des articles portant leur marque, leur "griffe", moyennant des royalties qui atteignent 5% à 7% du bénéfice du fabriquant. Cela dans tous les domaines, parfumerie, bijouterie fantaisie, lingerie, lunetterie... Au hit-parade de ce système, Pierre Cardin détient de loin la palme, avec plus de 840 licences (Dior en a 200) dans 101 pays. Licences qui vont du parfum aux collants en passant par les stylos, les lavabos et les restaurants. Une diversification qui s'éloigne beaucoup du chiffon de luxe. Mais sans laquelle la Haute Couture ne survivrait peut-être pas.

Claire Thierry

... WHO YOU ARE ..
IS WHERE YOU STAY. !

TURINO
HOTEL
فندق تورينو
Fine Food Restaurants
With Seif & Nofal
SWEIFIYEH 863944

A centenary to be celebrated

The discovery of the mosaic map of Madaba

THE MOSAIC map of the Biblical Lands unearthed in 1896 in Madaba has a special place amongst the artistic and cultural treasures left in the care and protection of the people and government of Jordan.

To quote His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal: "This is a description of Jordan as the place where the mandates of heaven, history and geography meet.... The people of Jordan are the product of these interactions over the ages... A clear example of this is the way in which the Islamic civilisation has interacted and benefited in a spirit of tolerance from other world civilisation and has in turn contributed to the progress of humanity.

The diary of Ulrich Seetzen's voyage in 1807 drew European scholars' attention. The sober correspondence of Ludwih Burckhardt on his fantastic trip to Petra in 1812 brought dreams to all world lovers of antiquities and made them turn their eyes towards this corner of the Near East on the eastern shores of the River Jordan.

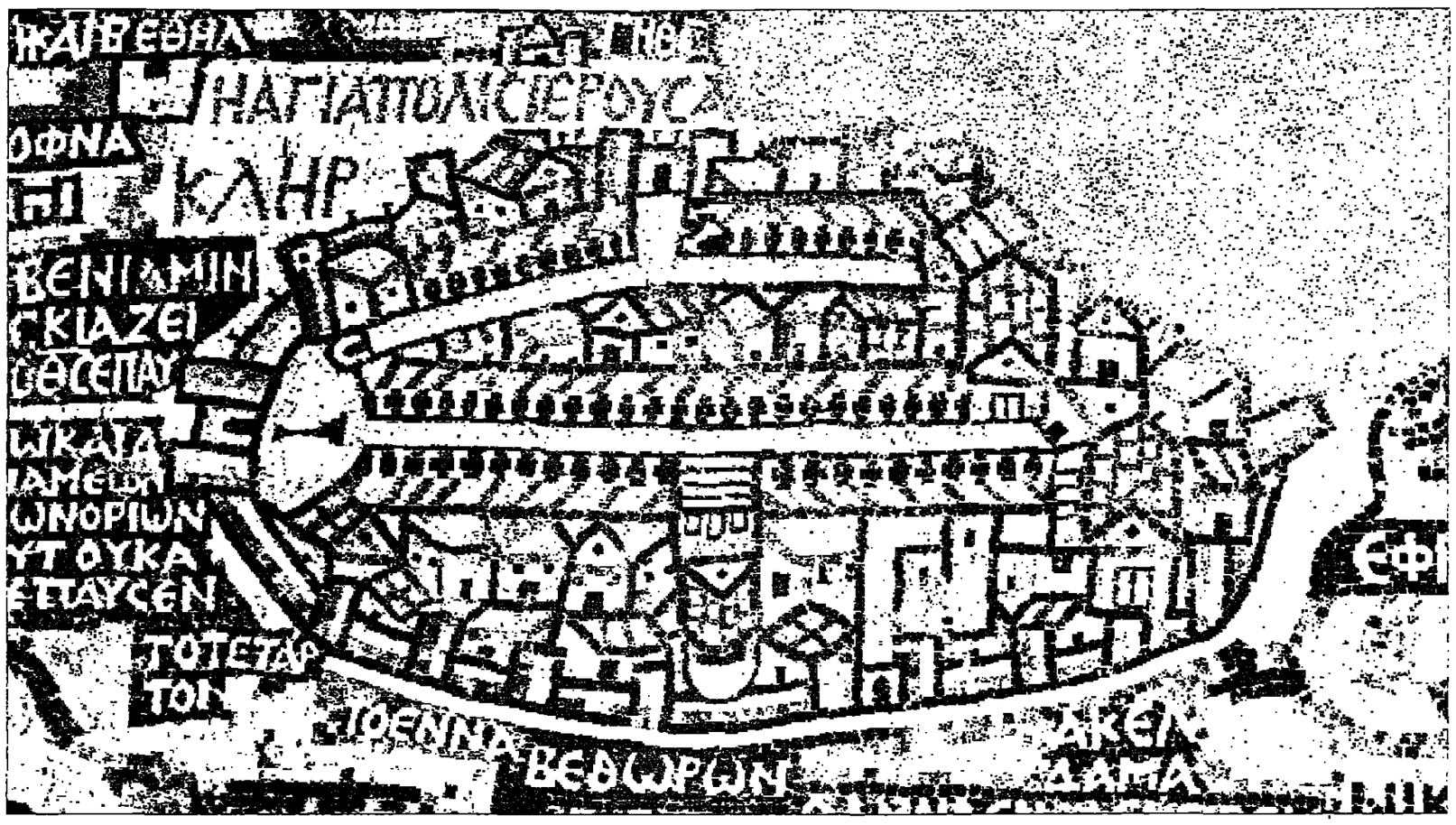
The discovery in a sixth century church, and the ensuing publication, of the mosaic map of the biblical lands in 1896-7, brought Madaba, at the time a small dusty village on the plateau of Moab to the south of Amman, to international fame; a hundred-year-old event which has not yet exhausted either the interest in it or its historic-geographic potential.

The map is a true geographic map of Palestine, Jordan, Sinai and the Nile. All other maps which have survived from antiquity can only be classified as sketches by comparison. The map was first discovered and valued not by professional scholars but by the masons and workers who in 1896 were building the new Greek-Orthodox church on the ruins of a Byzantine church in the northern part of Madaba.

It was only Abuna Kleofas Kikilides who realised the true significance, for the history of the region, that the map had while visiting Madaba in December 1896. A Franciscan friar of Italian-Croatian origin born in Constantinople, Fr. Girolamo Golubovich, helped Abuna Kleofas to print a booklet in Greek about the map at the Franciscan printing press of Jerusalem. Immediately afterwards, the Revue Biblique published a long and detailed historic-geographic study of the map by the Dominican fathers M.J. Lagrange and H. Vincent after visiting the site themselves. At the same time, Father J. Germer-Durand of the Assumptionist Fathers published a photographic album with his own pictures of the map. In Paris, C. Clermont-Gannau, a well known oriental scholar, announced the discovery at the Academie des Sciences et belles Lettres.

International fame was rightfully earned, even though only one fourth of the original mosaic had survived. The depiction of the territory is rendered with such pictorial realism that it is easily understood. The pattern moves around the central axis formed by the River Jordan and the Dead Sea basin with the mountainous plateau to the east of the sea. The almost 150 location names (captions) which accompany the localities depicted on the map make it an historic document of primary importance for historic-biblical geography. The map reaches its pictorial and figurative apex with the depiction of Jerusalem which, in a sense, is the ideal centre of the whole composition with a clear theological meaning, making this city the centre and heart of the ecumene, a tradition which still remains fundamental to Christian, Jewish and Islamic imagery.

Another important step towards the better understanding of this monument of Madaba is the life-size relief of the map completed and published by H. Guthe and P. Palmer in 1906. Apart from minor oversights, the copy conserved at Gottingen is still at the centre of interest of German scholars, being preferred to a photograph in the recent guide of the map published by Professor Herbert Donner, a benefactor of Madaba. It was him who, made aware by his fellow countrymen as to the importance of the map, convinced the Volkswagen company, who were setting-up a plant in Jordan, to finance the restoration of the map. This was in fact carried out in 1965 under his direction by the technical restorers of the Museums of Trier.



Mosaic map of Madaba

In 1983 the archaeologists of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum of Mount Nebo, facing the practical impossibility to take a picture of the whole map, succeeded in overcoming this obstacle by breaking down the whole mosaic in 28 pictures which were then assembled at the Rizzoli laboratories in Milan. The photo-lithograph which resulted, the first one to give a complete picture of all the map, was published one year later, in the last issue of the monumental Story of Jesus edited by Rizzoli.

In 1992, a partial life-size copy of the map, executed by the mosaicists of Ravenna in collaboration with the archaeologists of Mount Nebo on behalf of the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, was put on display at the Jordanian pavilion at the Sevilla Expo. This copy of the map will be completed by the students of the Madaba School of Mosaics, a Jordanian-Italian cooperation project under the guidance of Italian experts, and will be displayed at the exhibition which is being prepared to coincide with the centenary of the discovery of the original map.

At this point in time, we must exert all efforts in preparation for the celebration of this centenary which is now very close. From Mount Nebo sprung the idea, which was enthusiastically accepted by Massolini SpA of Brescia, to dedicate their artistic calendar of 1996 to this map: in fact they had already dedicated their 1989 calendar to Jordan. It is also foreseen that a colour pictorial album will follow which will update the one-hundred-year old publication published by Germar-Durand.

Lest this centenary be forgotten in the future, it is necessary that European scholars, who have had such an important role in the discovery and the publication of the map, get together with their Jordanian counterparts, who are heirs and custodians of this preserved treasure of antiquity, and other scholars worldwide for an international meeting whose principal aim will be to determine the present position regarding the map, in the light of recent discoveries like, for example, the Sanctuary of Saint Lot. It is accurately recorded and represented on the map on the south-eastern shore of the Dead Sea and was recently brought to light, on the mountain behind Ghor Al Safi, by Dino Politis, a Greek archaeologist whose expedition was funded by the British Museum in London.

The programme and contents of the proposed international meeting to be held on the occasion of this centenary have already been drawn up by the archaeologists of Mount Nebo. Their agenda has been presented to and accepted by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. The contributions would deal with the history of the discovery, that occurred a hundred years ago, removed from imaginary additions and brought down to its historical reality; the epigraphic context of the map within the history of Roman-Byzantine cartography; the Biblical-geographic fonts at the origin of the captions found on the map; the cartographic symbols used by the anonymous master mosaicist of Madaba.

The documentary exhibition, which will run in parallel with the meeting, will include, together with the life-size copy of the map, other material of the same period as well as all the works, published worldwide, which deal with the map of Madaba. All this will be supplemented by an audio-visual presentation on Madaba and its mosaic map.

This is the project, born on Mount Nebo, where following Moses' footsteps, a multitude of people have come to contemplate the Promised Land represented in the church mosaic map of Madaba. We present this map to the Jordanian government and the governments of the European Union hoping that they may become its promoters, following in the footsteps of the many European scholars who, in the past, took an interest in this land bringing to the attention of the world the cultural potential deeply rooted in our common Mediterranean heritage

Concentrating on the map and its significance means rethinking about our common traditions and values of culture and faith which had their origin in this land.

Restudying the vignette of Jerusalem means deepening the ties which take back our minds and hearts to Jerusalem, the Holy City, blessed by God, well constructed within its walls, mother of the people. The city that can become today the symbol of peace which only God and man of goodwill can build.

There is no time to lose, 1997 is at the doorstep.

Michele Piccirillo
Franciscan Archaeological Institute, Mount Nebo

A day of beauty...
A lifetime of loveliness.

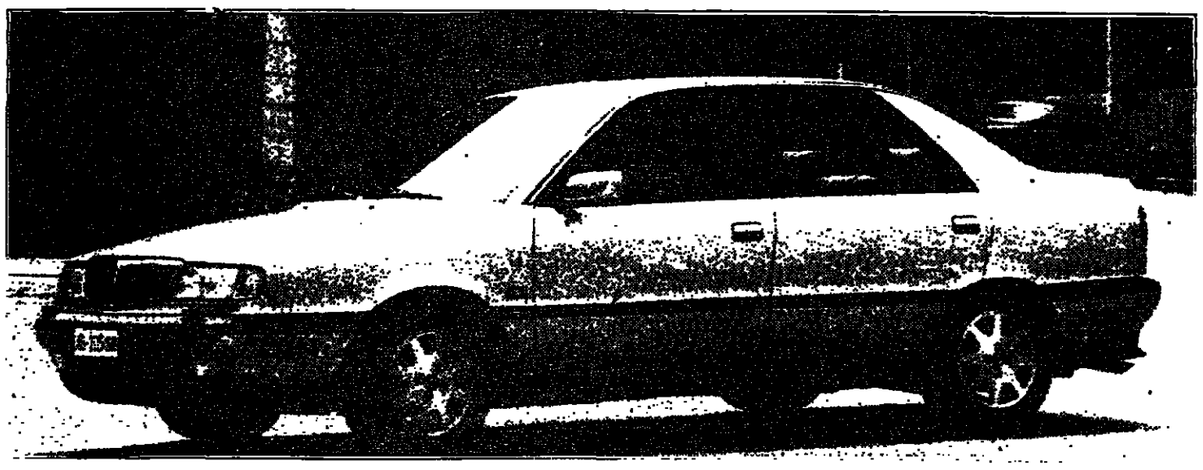
The pioneers of beauty and skincare in Paris have created a tranquil refuge from daily life wholly dedicated to beauty. It is a gracious yet thoroughly modern salon de beauté equipped with the latest and most advanced treatments for a woman's face and body, and staffed by professional, qualified personnel trained and **certified by ORLANE Paris.**

Enter
a world
like no other

Qweider Trading Est.
Shmeisani, A. Shoman st. Phone 689259 Fax 689260 P.O.Box 5514 Amman 11187

LANCIA DEDRA

Wonderful Outlook, Spacious cabin, powerful engine exceeding all expectations



Lancia Dedra has been carefully designed to provide full comfort and meet all the expectations of a luxurious car. Lancia Dedra's spacious and comfortable cabin looks after the smallest details. It combines the *elegant design, power,* spacious cabin and value. Its wonderful outlook, along with its powerful 1800 cc engine and its spacious cabin which accommodates five people makes it unique among other cars.

LANCIA DEDRA ENJOYS THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS :

* 1800 cc engine, injection
* Air condition with automatic control system
* Centre lock
* 6 head-supporters
* coloured electric glass
* Anti-theft alarm system
* Power and moveable steering
* steering-fitted air balloon
* wooden tableau
* back curtains
* radio and tape recorder with 4 Alpine speakers
* bumpers of the same car colour

COME AND WATCH IT AT THE SHOW ROOMS OF AGENTS AND DEALERS IN JORDAN:
THE CENTRAL TRADE EXHIBITIONS ESTABLISHMENT LIMITED
SAKLIJIAN CENTRE, PRINCE MOHAMMAD STREET.
TEL. 635677, 632981 FAX 625565
P.O.BOX 289 AMMAN

Lancia Il Granturismo.

European scholars undertake host of archaeological projects in Jordan

By Rami G. Khouri

EVER SINCE the birth of modern Jordan, scholars from several European countries have conducted surveys, excavations and other scholarly work that has helped to reconstruct much of the history of humankind on this very ancient landscape. The following is a summary of the major archaeological projects being undertaken by scholars from European Union member states:

German scholars tend to focus their attention on some of the earlier periods in Jordanian history. The oldest site they have studied is Basta, near Petra, where Hans Jorg Nissen from the Free University in Berlin and Mujahed Mohaisin of Yarmouk University have excavated a pre-pottery Neolithic B village (circa 7000 BC) with remains of homes and an elaborate subterranean channel system. The site of Abu Snesleh, south-east of Amman, was excavated by Susanne Kerner, current director of the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology. It revealed large domestic structures from the Middle Bronze and Chalcolithic periods, while a deep trench reached down to Neolithic and Epipaleolithic layers.

The early Bronze Age town site of Khirbet Zeraqun, east of Irbid, is being excavated by Sieffried Mittman from the Theological Seminar in Tubingen and Zeidan Kafafi of Yarmouk University. The site includes a massive fortification wall that was 154 metres wide in places and that sheltered both an upper and a lower city. Early Bronze remains were also uncovered at Dhra', east of the Dead Sea, where Carsten Korber unearthed standing stones and a large enclosure wall that were interpreted as cultic structures.

The Iron Age predominates at the important site of Balua', on th Karak plateau, where Udo Worschech from the Theological Seminar in Leipzig has excavated an 8th century BC town surrounded by a fortification casemate wall with a prominent gate. The Iron Age is also one of the periods represented at the enormous copper smelting site of Feinan, in the northern Wadi Araba, which has been studied for over a decade by a team from the Bochum Mining Museum headed by Andreas Hauptmann. Feinan has mining, smelting and residential remains spanning nearly 8000 years, from the Neolithic period until today, with significant activity in the Early Bronze, Iron, Roman, Byzantine and middle Islamic periods. The triple-shaft deep mines from the Iron and Roman eras are among Feinan's most remarkable remains.

Not far south of Feinan, Manfred Lindner from the Society for Natural History in Nürnberg has systematically surveyed and excavated surrounding regions of Petra, especially the Nabataean suburb of Wadi Sabra, where he also identified Early Bronze Age shelters and Paleolithic sites. John Zeitler, from the same society, has been excavating Nabataean domestic quarters within central Petra. Also from the Classical period is the work that has been done at Umm Qais for some two decades, initially directed by Ute Wagner-Lux and Thomas Weber respectively, and more recently by Susanne Kerner in cooperation with Adolf Hoffman of the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin. Umm Qais was a large Hellenistic and Roman era city that continued to be inhabited in all later periods, due to its strategic position overlooking the north Jordan Valley. The German work at Umm Qais has also included funding the rehabilitation of Ottoman-era structures that are being used as a museum and a dig house, and clean-up and rehabiltation of the black basalt western theatre for use once again as a venue for cultural performances.

Scholars from the United Kingdom have worked in Jordan systematically since the 1930s, and most of their work today is done through the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (BIAAH). Institute Director Allison McQuitty has recently completed a joint project with Jeremy Johns at Khirbet Faris, on the Karak plateau, where they studied remains from a mediaeval village and the area's use in the last century. Mike Charles of the University of Sheffield continues to study traditional agriculture in that area, while Ms. McQuitty now coordinates BIAAH's multidisciplinary project to examine Wadi Feinan's settlements and agricultural remains from any different periods.

Douglas Baird from the University of Liverpool and Graham Phillip from the University of Durham are excavating the ancient settlement at North Shuna, in the north Jordan Valley, which has good Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age remains — the same period that Meredith Chesson from Harvard University (U.S.) is exploring in the valley at Tell Handaquq South. Jonathan Tubb of the British Museum has uncovered important Bronze Age and Iron town remains at Tell es-Saadiyyeh, in the central Jordan Valley. Further south in the valley, east of the Dead Sea, K. Politis has unearthed and consolidated a dramatic hillside Byzantine monastery dedicated to St. Lot, located at 'Ain Abata.

BIAAH Assistant Director Pam Watson is in the midst of several survey seasons in the region immediately surrounding the massive site of Pella, in the north Jordan Valley foothills. She has already identified over a hundred sites from many different periods, thus providing valuable information that helps relate the Pella citysite to its hinterland during the past 6,000 years. David Kennedy and Phil Freeman, from the Universty of Western Australia, are applying high tech techniques in their project, using remote sensing to identify archaeological remains in north Jordan. Piotr Bienkowski from Liverpool Museum is continuing his investigation of the Late Bronze-Iron Age eras in southern Jordan with work at several sites in Wadi Hasa.

The Netherlands is represented by archaeological projects at Tell Deir Alla and environs, in the central Jordan Valley. This work, which was initiated in 1960 by Henk Franken of the University of Leiden, has revealed an imposant Late Bronze/Iron Age town and cultic centre. The dig, now co-directed by Moawiya Ibrahim of Yarmouk University and Gerrit van der Kooij of Leiden University, concentrates on Late Iron Age levels. The joint Dutch-Jordanian project has also established a permanent Station for Archaeological Studies at Deir Alla, comprising a dig house, work areas and a small regional museum. A few kilometres to the northwest is the predominantly Byzantine/ Umayyad agro-industrial site of Tell Abu Sarbut, which has been excavated by Margaret Steiner, Edward LaGro and Hubert de Haas, under the aegis of the Netherlands Foundation for Archaeological Studies and the Netherlands Institute for the Near East in Leiden.

Spanish archaeological activity in Jordan started in the 1960s when Joaquin Gonzalez Echeqaray studied some Paleolithic sites in the Zarqa Valley, and Martin Almagro directed some aerial photographic and photometric investigations at Petra. In the 1970s, Professor Almagro directed studies and conservation of the Umayyad frescoes of Qasr Amra, he and Emilio Olavarri excavated and conserved the Amman Umayyad palace and Olavarri excavated the ancient site of Tell el-Medeineh on the Moab plateau and the Agora at Jerash. Manuel Bueno resumed Spanish excavations at Jerash as of 1985.

In 1989, Juan Fernandez Tresquerres started excavating the important Early Bronze Age site of Jabal Mutawwaq , south-east of Jerash, which comprises a walled townsite and an extensive megalithic necropolis of over six hundred dolmens. The Spanish activities in Jordan are now being consolidated under the aegis of the new Spanish Institute for Oriental Research that has been established in Amman.

Italian archaeologists are working on several projects in Jordan, the oldest of which is the excavation and study of the Madaba region that has been undertaken since 1933 by the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum (SBF). The work has covered Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Umm er-Rasas, Ma'in, Ayoun Mousa and other sites, and is now directed by Father Michele Picirillo.

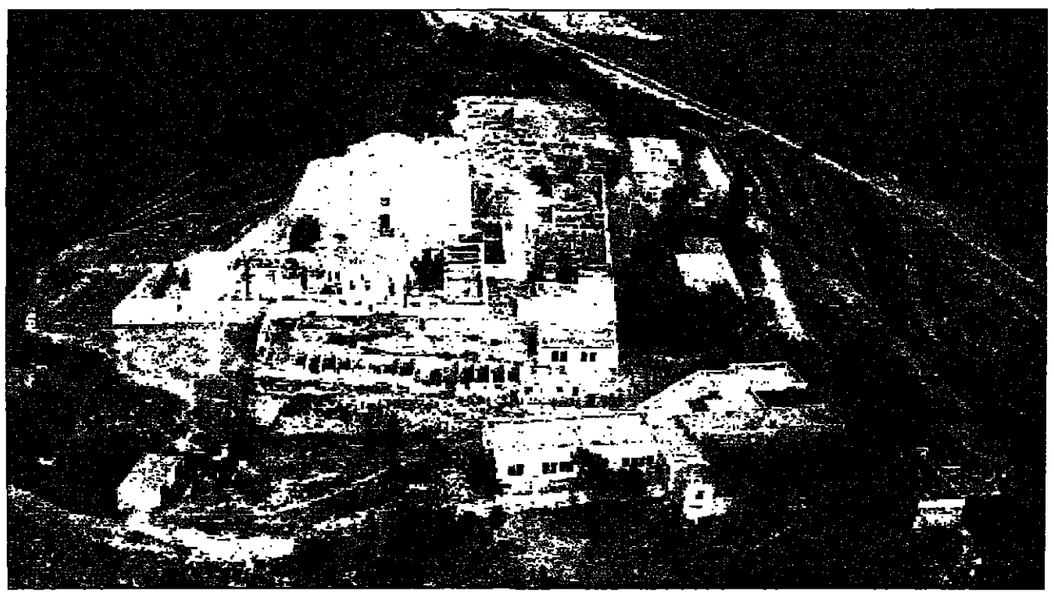
Excavation and restoration of the Artemis Temple in Jerash have been directed since 1977 by Professor Gullini of the Centre of Archaeological Research in Turin for the Middle East and Asia. The centre has joined forces with the University of Jordan and the Department of Antiquities to establish the Italian-Jordanian Institute for Archaeological Sciences. A University of Florence team headed by Professor Marino is excavating and restoring the Herodian fortress at Mekawir, which had been initially excavated in the late 1970s by the SBF. Gaetano Palumbo of the University of Rome has investigated several sites in Jordan, most recently the Wadi Yabis and the lower Zarqa River basin. An expedition led by Professor Vannini, grouping the Universities of Florence, Urbino and Rende, has studied several Crusader castles and is restoring parts of the castle at Wueira, near Petra.

Professor Borzatti from the University of Florence has been surveying the Wadi Rum area since 1974 and documenting its antiquities, human history and flora. The Italian Institute for the Middle and Far East, under the direction of Professor Jacqueline Calzini, has studied epigraphic inscriptions in north Jordan and is now restoring Bayir castle in central Jordan. Professor Landini of the University of Pisa has been working in Aqaba since 1988 to study the natural evolution of the Aqaba Gulf. The latest Italian project in Jordan, to start in late 1995, will be an expedition led by Professor Messineo to survey the region between Wadi Mujib and Heidan, in central Jordan.

Belgian excavations in Jordan have centred on the dramatically perched site of Lehhun, on the north ridge of Wadi Mujib. Since 1978, Denyse Homes-Fredericq of the Brussels Free University and the Royal Museums of Arts and History has directed excavations that have revealed a large Iron Age fortress. Architectural and artifacts remains have been found from several other periods ranging from the Paleolithic to the Ottoman, including a small Nabataean temple and a Late Mameluke mosque.

French archaeological activities in Jordan cover a wide range of periods, with most work done in association with the Institut Francais d'Archeologie de Proche-Orient (IFAPO), whose acting director in Jordan, Jacques Seigne, has directed nearly 13 years of French excavations and reconstruction work around the South Gate and Zeus Temple compound at Jerash. Genevieve Dollfus of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique has co-directed excavations at the Chalcolithic village of Tell Abu Hamid in the north of Jordan Valley with Yarmouk University's Zeidan Kafafi. Jean-Baptiste Humbert of the Ecole Biblique has investigated the lower terrace of the Amman Citadel, and has also directed major excavations of Iron Age, Byzantine and Islamic settlements at Fedein (Mafraq) and the important Roman/Nabataean/Byzantine settlement at Khirbet es-Samra, northeast of Zarqa. Francois Larche and Francois Villeneuve directed the excavations and reconstruction of the Hellenistic era palace of Qasr-el-Abed, near Wadi es-Seer west of Amman, and Villeneuve has also directed excavations of the Nabataean village and temple at Khirbet ed-Dharieh, near Wadi Hasa. Several French projects have been undertaken at Petra, including Francois Larche's architectural studies of Qasr el-Bint, aerial photography and land surveys conducted by J.M. Dentzer, P. Gentelle and M. Gory, and high tech surveys of the ancient water systems conducted by Electricite de France. Alix Barbet and Claude Vibert-Guigue have studied the painted Roman tombs at Qweilbeh, in north Jordan, and have also worked on the painted frescoes of Qasr Amra. Michele Biewers has studied the ethnography and architecture of many traditional villages in south Jordan, while Anna Ohanessian-Charpin has carried out anthropological research among the bedouins of Petra and the Jordan Valley.

Archaeological finds in Umm Qais



Mount Nebo, Syagha

Quality of life in Sweden

By Caroline Maino

SURROUNDED BY water and forests, the people in the Swedish capital are more conscious than most city dwellers of the environmental dimension of their lives. It is this public interest in environmental issues which has encouraged the city of Stockholm to launch high-profile events to raise awareness of these issues, such as the Stockholm Water Festival as well as more down-to-earth initiatives.

For one thing, Stockholm is outstandingly beautiful -- an important part of quality of life for its inhabitants. For another, its low levels of air and water pollution make it one of the cleanest cities in the world. But there are still improvements to be made.

Stockholm is built on more than a dozen islands, which is why it is also referred to as "the Venice of the north." The city is situated at the confluence of the large Lake Malaren with an estuary of brackish water which flows to the Baltic Sea through an archipelago of 30,000 islands. The water environment is unique; fishing and swimming is possible in the very heart of the city. But until quite recently, this was not at all the case. Today's achievement is the result of many years of effort in the area of water management. Recycling is the key word in Stockholm's water management. Treated wastewater is not seen as merely fit for disposal; it contains heat. Some 200,000 households are heated with recovered wastewater.

Bio gas is another by-product of sewage treatment and is used to generate electricity. What is more, the sludge from waste-water treatment can be used as fertiliser on farmland.

The difference in the water management approach in Stockholm compared to that of other cities is that here individuals are not only seen as consumers of drinking water, but also as producers of sewage. Education to change the attitudes of these sewage generators is one vital element in water management. Everyone is involved, from school children to manufacturing industry. The programme has been successful so far.

Through the years the Stockholm Water Company has built up a substantial amount of technical knowledge and practical experience. Against this background, it was natural for the city to initiate the Stockholm Water Prize and Symposium. The water resources on our planet are rapidly deteriorating. The Water Prize and the Symposium have been es-tablished to focus on that fact, to analyse the problems and to suggest means of overcoming them. In August every year while the Water Festival is in progress, the symposium gathers in experts and scientists from all over the world. At that time the Water Prize is awarded for an outstanding contribution in the field of water conservation.

The theme of the 1995 symposium is "Water Quality Management: Heading for a New Epoch."

The concept of achieving change through education is pervading environmental *thinking in Stockholm. For* over twenty years, the city has had several consecutive environment programmes. Nowadays, they are considered as part of Stockholm's local Agenda 21. They have led to improvements in most fields and put Stockholm in the front line amongst cities striving to achieve sustainable development. The inhabitants have become very aware of the threats to the environment and how to avoid them. People put their paper waste in one place, the glass in another and used batteries in a third. Many of those living in their own houses have started composting household waste. Many people try to buy washing powder and other products labelled "friendly to the environment."

The Swedes in general are nature lovers. Within the boundaries of Stockholm about 30 per cent of the area is either parkland or semi-wilderness. Most Stockholmers live quite near to recreational areas with woodland, meadows or water. Since they love to spend time on outdoor activities, of course they want to preserve and improve the environment.

But there is still one big problem: the passion for car ownership and the resulting traffic on the city roads. Thanks to its geographical position, Stockholm's air is purified with cleaner air blowing in from other areas.

They have been measuring air pollution here since the 1960s. In some respects, the air quality is better now than 30 or 40 years ago. The extended use of district heating and cleaner fuel oil, as well as *much reduced emissions from* industry, have contributed to improved air quality.

Consequently, it is motor traffic that has become the most serious environmental problem in Stockholm; it accounts for 60 to 80 per cent of all air pollution. Compared to other city dwellers and those living in the countryside, Stockholmers are the most frequent users of public transport. But in order to further reduce traffic emissions, even more of them will have to take to the bus or subway.

The Stockholm subway is the only one in Sweden. The first section was opened in 1950 and today it has one hundred stations along its 110km length. It is one of the longest subways in the world.

Bus and commuter train services complement the subway. But buses are troublesome, even though they run on a special kind of diesel with a low amount of sulphur. Five years ago the public transport company, SL, started a large-scale project with buses running on ethanol. At first, 32 ethanol buses equipped with catalytic convertors were put into service.

The reduction in emissions and the reliability of the buses proved so successful that today 82 of them serve the inner parts of the city, and it is hoped to have the entire fleet of 225 buses running on ethanol before the turn of the century.

The biggest advantages of the ethanol buses is that the energy source is renewable and their emissions do not contribute to the "greenhouse" effect. Now several other Swedish cities are following Stockholm's example.

On the outskirts of the city, the best diesel technology available is used, meaning *low-sulphur diesel combined* with catalytic convertors.

Buses are far from being the only air polluters. Apart from private cars, there are many others used in official city business. Stockholm wants to boost the development of electric cars. Together with Nutek, the authority for economic and technical development, the city has started a project aimed at encouraging car manufacturers to produce new long-range electric cars.

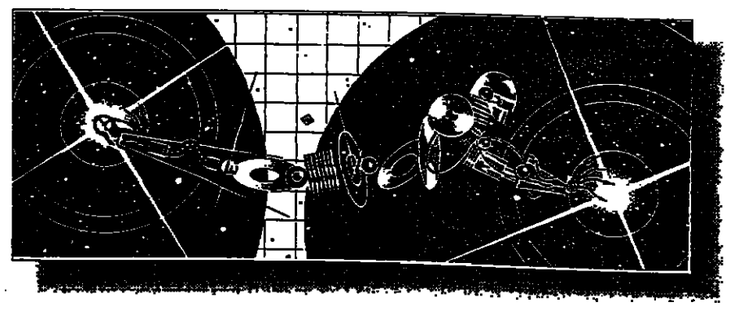
The city has 15 electric cars in experimental use at the moment and is planning to extend the experiment to replace some 300 of its official cars with electric ones, providing their range can be improved.

The city authorities, together with companies such as Stockholm's Energi, the city's power utility, work on tomorrow's environmental issues in many fields. Thus, they take an active part in and follow the research, both nationally and internationally, at centres such as the Stockholm Institute of Technology and the Institute for Construction Research.

It is important for everyone to save energy: from private individuals to key companies. Using energy more effectively is a good way of reducing its impact on the environment. Swedish houses, for instance, are built to a high standard: no draughts and no humidity.

Even though air pollution from heating and electricity is not a big problem in Stockholm, there is still a need for a sustainable system. New techniques such as bio fuels, renewable energy sources, waste and natural gas, which are already in use here, point the way to future solutions. District heating, which is used by 70 per cent of the localities, has been a big help in overcoming some of the air pollution problems Stockholm used to have. A clean capital city is good publicity for the country as a whole and Stockholm understands this better than most.

Banking On Success



International Connections

ANZ Grindlays Bank
In Jordan since 1925

Shmeisani - Tel. 607201 Fax. 679115
P.O.Box 9997 Amman - Jordan

Telematic trials ease traffic flow

By Mick Haymer

DRIVERS COULD soon have faster and more accurate warnings of jams ahead, and other hazards, thanks to the application of new technology to traffic control. In the fast-developing world of traffic technology, the open road is rapidly being replaced by the smart telemetric highway.

Britain has long been a world leader in applying modern electronics to traffic. In the 1970s and 1980s Scoot, a computer-controlled system which links the timings of different sets of traffic lights to minimise the queues, was exported all over the world. Thanks to Scoot, many of the world's leading cities now have a smoother flow of traffic.

Now the application of micro-chip technology and telecommunications -- the two are often known as telematics -- to traffic control has spawned a new growth industry. Last summer RTI Focus, the British associations for promoting transport telematics which includes both the public and the private sectors, staged a two-day demonstration of the new technologies at Crowthorne, Berkshire, southern England.

Same direction

Bert Pitt of RTI Focus says that the open days "... put together a lot of the telematics effort. It was fantastic to see how much there is and all heading in the same direction."

Among the star exhibits was the decidedly futuristic Automated Intelligence Cruise Control (AICC) system which has been developed by the British car firm Jaguar. When fitted with AICC, cars automatically adjust their cruising speed on motor ways to keep a safe distance behind the car in front.

But if cruise control is still a few years away from affecting the driver in the street, other developments in transport telematics could well have a much more immediate impact. Already new electronic variable message signs are appearing on many roads in Britain.

Hazards ahead

The traffic control centre can change the message on these signs to warn drivers of hazards ahead -- from bad weather to traffic jams. Unlike the old message signs, which had a limited range of notices, they now have the capacity to display a wide range of information chosen by the control centre. And these can be changed at the tap of a computer keyboard.

Variable message signs are already operating in central Scotland and GEC has some in North London. In Southampton, a consortium of the county council and the bus operators even has portable variable message signs which can be towed to where they are needed. Once they are in position, these signs just have to be connected to the control centre by a radio link and a modem. The result is an extremely flexible system, which can warn of delays on roads where traffic is only ever held up by extremely rare events, such as the annual fete.

Impressive as the signs are, there is always some inherent delay in the control centre learning of a build-up of traffic. They have to reply on feedback from systems such as Scoot, or even reports from spotter planes.

This year (1995) TrafficMaster PLC, a British company based in Milton Keynes, southern England, is installing a pilot system designed to spot the build-up of traffic as it occurs. The system -- which uses video cameras to monitor and compare traffic flow -- is being tested on two roads leading to central London -- the Finchley Road in the north and the M4 motorway. The company is also participating in an in-car communication scheme in Seattle, USA, and is running a similar project in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Traffic congestion

Traffic congestion and pollution in London is estimated to be costing five billion pounds a year in wasted time and fuel as well as being a major cause of pollution. In an effort to improve London's transport, a Red Route system, which will ultimately forbid parking on over 500.5 kilometres of the capital's bus routes, is now being introduced.

A 27.5-kilometre pilot system began three years ago in north and east London. Some 226.9 kilometres of outlying routes will be added by the end of this year and other bus routes will be Red Routed to ensure the scheme is completed by the end of the century. On the pilot route, certain areas have been pedestrianised, more road crossings introduced and legal parking allowed in side roads enabling express bus services to be introduced. However, there has been some criticism from small shop owners who claim that Red Routes create urban motorways and the loss of business.

First trials

The first trials of electronic road tolling are also due to begin on the M3 motorway in Hampshire in March. Last year 29 rival companies expressed their interest in developing the technology. Up to six consortia are to be selected by the Department of Transport to install their equipment, either on the M3 near Basingstoke or at the Transport Research Laboratory's test track in Crowthorne. The announcement of the shortlisted contenders is expected early this year. The consortia include leading British electronics companies, such as GEC, British Telecom and Racal.

The technologies being tested by the rival consortia differ. But because British motorways were not designed for tolls and do not have wide asphalt plazas common in France and Italy all the systems have to be able to exact fees electronically while keeping the traffic rolling.

At the moment telematics is scarcely a household word. But such is the pace of change that, just as personal computers have become common in people's homes in the last ten years, so the impact of telematics will be on drivers before the end of the century.

Yes to fast food in restaurants, but pasta holds its own

WE ITALIANS are changing our eating habits as we move toward the twenty-first century, with nostalgia for our traditional regional dishes growing, combined with curiosity over a more exotic cuisine, regard for a healthy breakfast, decreased consumption of meat (and food in general), and increased appreciation of fruit and vegetables. These developments are due in large part to the younger generation, usually more aware of the importance of nature and the environment and also more accustomed to travelling.

From the Alps to Sicily, restaurants are seeing a growth in the popularity of vegetable hors d'oeuvres, grilled or roast vegetables, and cooked and raw salads of every kind and colour, particularly with customers in the twenty to forty age bracket. The same applies to such white meats as chicken and turkey, as well as fish (the great rediscovery of recent years). And it is no coincidence that fast food outlets offering Mediterranean type food are drawing increasing crowds. A taste for a cuisine in which olive oil is king, and butter is used very sparingly, is common to both modest and more luxurious tables. Salami and ham seem to be going out of fashion, as is red meat, and even when people do eat these foods, they often make a point of cutting away the fat.

According to Giovanni Anone, secretary general of the wine and food club, The Green Ribbon of Europe, "in homes and restaurants we are seeing an increase in the amount of fish on menus, specially anchovies and small tuna, cooked very simply as in days gone by, purchased straight from the fishermen. And, at least in such regions as Campania, you can eat pasta with clams and fresh tomatoes all the year round, for we have the good fortune of being able to preserve tomatoes by hanging them up in bunches. Polenta is another dish that is receiving greater general appreciation, served with our own simple cheeses and local wines." Although canned tomatoes and other convenient foods obviously play an important role, time being a commodity in short supply, people prefer to replace them with fresh produce whenever possible.

There are also growing numbers of people who prefer spaghetti in true Roman style, lasagne, risotto with squash, gnocchi, and all the regional varieties of pasta and sauce, rather than the delicate flavours of nouvellle cuisine. And they might eat one good pasta dish, and stop there. Apart from the undoubted health benefits, weight awareness has led to a relaxation in social behaviour; so that few people today--and only away from the large cities-- feel any embarrassment about ordering only one dish in a restaurant. This has been a habit for years in other European countries, and has spread to us mainly through business executives, people from the professions and the upper levels of society and young people (who tend to be more relaxed in their relations with others).

The habit of eating a substantial breakfast is also very European, and some of the first Italians to discover the advantages of breakfasts that supply energy for the whole day have been the young people who now travel all over our continent (and others) for study or enjoyment. However, preferences are still firmly rooted in our own tradition: cappuccino, bread and jam, yoghurt, fruit, cookies.

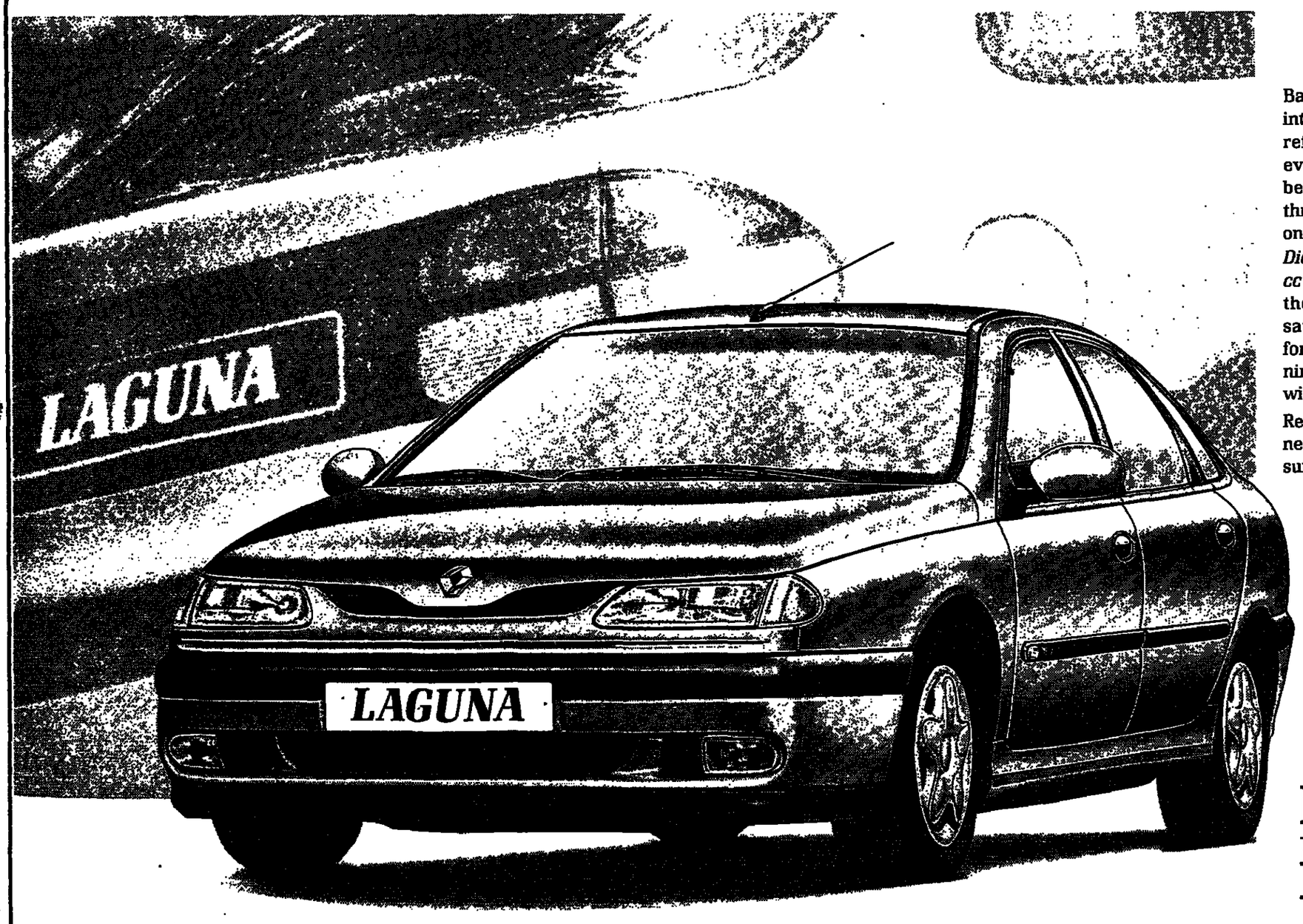
This renewed appreciation of traditional fare goes hand in hand with curiosity over exotic food -- also in large part due to increased mobility. The success of cooking from far-off lands can be seen in large cities and small towns, in the form of restaurants serving Arab, Turkish, Japanese, Chinese, Malaysian, Indian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Indonesian, Burmese, Portuguese, French, Spanish, Eritrean, Somalian, Mexican and Argentinian food.

There are restaurants for every taste and pocket, ranging from the $60-$75 per head of certain Japanese restaurants (usually more expensive than others) to the $12-$15 of places that cater not only for Italians, but for immigrants in search of the lost flavour of their own lands. In the meantime, there are more and more kosher and halal butchers (offering meat drained of all blood), stores selling oriental foods and the ingredients to make them yourself, and supermarkets with whole shelves devoted to such specialities.

EU orchestra to perform in Amman

The European Community Chamber Orchestra (ECCO), whose patron is Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain, made up of European musicians who have performed in concerts in capital cities all around the world, will give a classical music concert on Friday Oct. 13, 1995 at the Prince Hassan Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 8 p.m. and will hold a musical workshop on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 14, 1995, for students of the National Music Conservatory (NMC).

RENAULT LAGUNA. NOTHING HAS BEEN LEFT TO CHANCE.



Balanced body lines, generous interior space, luxurious seating, refined levels of equipment... every detail of the Laguna has been meticulously thought through for you and your loved ones. Powered by a *petrol or Diesel engine ranging from 1794 cc to 2963 cc V6 injection*, this thoroughbred tourer combines safety and road handling, performance and economical running costs, seducing all on board with its focused attentiveness.

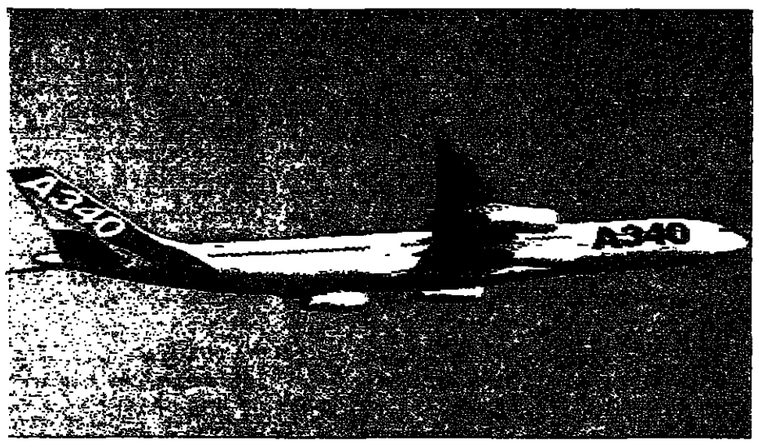
Renault Laguna : quite simply a new perspective on driving pleasure.

RENAULT
THERE'S MORE TO LIFE

Sole agents in Jordan: AL-TEWFIK AUTOMOBILE & EQUIPMENT CO.
Amman - Mahatta Road - Tel. 656 273
" A member of the TABBA'A GROUP "

Airbus Industrie & the A340

Example of European industrial cooperation



AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is a European consortium with an annual turnover of $8.5 billion, and the most modern aircraft family in the world. Ranking among the leading aircraft manufacturers in the market for airliners seating more than 100 passengers, Airbus Industrie has won in 25 years some 30 per cent of aircraft orders worldwide and has been profitable since 1990.

Since its foundation in 1970, Airbus Industrie has sold some 1,900 aircraft to more than 115 customers. Some 1,300 have already been delivered and are currently into service with over 130 operators worldwide.

The Airbus Industrie aircraft family comprises three different aircraft groups, covering all sectors of the market, from the short to the ultra-long haul spectrum. The single-aisle aircraft family comprises the A319, A320 and A321, ranging from 124 to 185 seats.

The A319, the smallest of Airbus Industrie aircraft, flew for the first time at the end of August. The wide body family comprises the 220-266 seat, medium range A300/A310 and the 263-295 medium to very long rang A330/A340. The A340, which set a record flying round the world with only one stop in Auckland, New Zealand, has the greatest range of any civil aircraft in operation today.

Headquartered in Toulouse, France, Airbus Industrie manages, markets, sells and supports the operation of the consortium's aircraft. It employs 2,700 staff, of 33 different nationalities, at its headquarters and subsidiaries.

Support for the consortium aircraft is provided by the customer service and includes the supply of spares from centres in Hamburg, Singapore and near Washington DC, training for airlines' staff at centres in Toulouse and Miami, and technical assistance. Moreover, Airbus Industrie will open a technical support and training centre in the People's Republic of China in 1996.

Airbus Industrie is owned by the four leading European aerospace companies: Aerospatiale of France and Daimler-Benz Aerospace Airbus of Germany with 37.9 per cent of shares each, British Aerospace with 20 per cent and CASA of Spain with 4.2 per cent.

The shareholders have a dual role as both shareholders and industrial participants, carrying out most of the design and all aircraft manufacture, coordinated and managed by Airbus Industrie.

Fully equipped sections of the different aircraft are produced in the various factories of the four partners throughout Europe. The sections are then transported, by road or by a special outsize cargo aircraft, to the final assembly line, in Toulouse for the A320, A300/A310 and A330/A340, and in Hamburg for the A319/A321. Some 32,000 people work directly for the European consortium while an estimated 100,000 employees at more than a thousand suppliers, including several hundred in North America, are also involved.

Diversity, quality in Britain's higher education

By Kwasi Gyan-Apenteng

IN THE current marketplace jargon, higher education in the United Kingdom can be justly described as a "growth industry," having experienced a period of unprecedented expansion throughout the 1980s and the early 1990s.

An example of this development is reflected in the fact that whereas in 1979 one in eight young people entered higher education of any sort, the ratio in 1994 was close to one in three. In total, the doubling of the number of higher education students in Britain between 1979 and 1983 has brought the figure to some 1.5 million, with the fastest expansion occurring since 1988.

An accompanying phenomenon is the interest shown by mature students: since 1979 their numbers have increased by more than 140 per cent, twice as fast as young students. Over half of mature students are studying part-time, compared with a tenth of young students.

Higher qualifications

The phenomenal explosion of the number of mature students in the late 1980s might suggest that people took advantage of enforced idleness in the recession to go into higher education to seek higher qualifications or prepare for a change of direction. Whatever the cause, all this added to the U.K. currently enjoying the highest proportion of graduates in the relevant age group in the European Union.

But it was not always so. Before the rapid expansion began, Britain was seen as lagging behind its European partners in comparisons of the proportion of young people in higher education. In early 1989, Kenneth Baker, then education secretary, launched an initiative designed to achieve a goal of one in three by the year 2000.

Years ahead

An article in the Education Supplement of "The Independent" newspaper in January 1995 claimed that the target was achieved seven years ahead of schedule, "surprising both official planners and ministers." Naturally, there are dark hints about ailing standards from those who thought that the rapid expansion of higher education would lead to an erosion in quality.

But quality has not been sacrificed, judging from the range of subjects, the level of study and the results. According to official statistics, the number of graduates gaining first degrees in 1992 was, at 156,000, 50 per cent higher than in 1979. More than one third of the new graduates qualified in science. Of the 1992 graduates whose destination was known six months after graduation, 58 per cent, or 73,000, had entered U.K. or overseas employment, and there were signs that the number and proportion entering employment rose in 1993 as the economy started to recover.

Quality has a special significance for providers of higher education, not only in terms of teaching and preparing students, but for research as well. This is a very important aspect of the work of universities and colleges, as they are the main providers of basic research and much of the strategic research carried out in the U.K. They also increasingly collaborate with the private sector in the conduct of specific applied research.

Selectively based

In fact, the quality of an institution's research affects its funding because, for example, the vast majority of research funds from he Higher Education Funding Council for England is allocated selectively based on the quality of research. Some institutions are more successful than others in the competition.

The range and sizes of higher education facilities show a diversity in choice which overall helps to keep the quality of education high. In England alone, the Higher Education Funding Council funds some 130 higher education institutions comprising 72 universities and 50 colleges. The universities include 34 new universities — mostly former polytechnics — and the eight directly funded schools of the University of London offer virtually the full range of academic subject categories.

These institutions vary in size from a few hundred students, such as at the College of Guidance Studies, to over 100,000 students (the Open University). Of the universities, over 50 of them with between 7,000 and 27,000 students offer virtually the full range of academic subject categories.

Colleges of higher education include general and specialist institutions. Although most of them are smaller than universities and offer a smaller range of courses, they nonetheless award degrees which are validated by universities. Large colleges, usually with more than 3,000 students, focus on business and management studies, humanities and education.

Specialist colleges

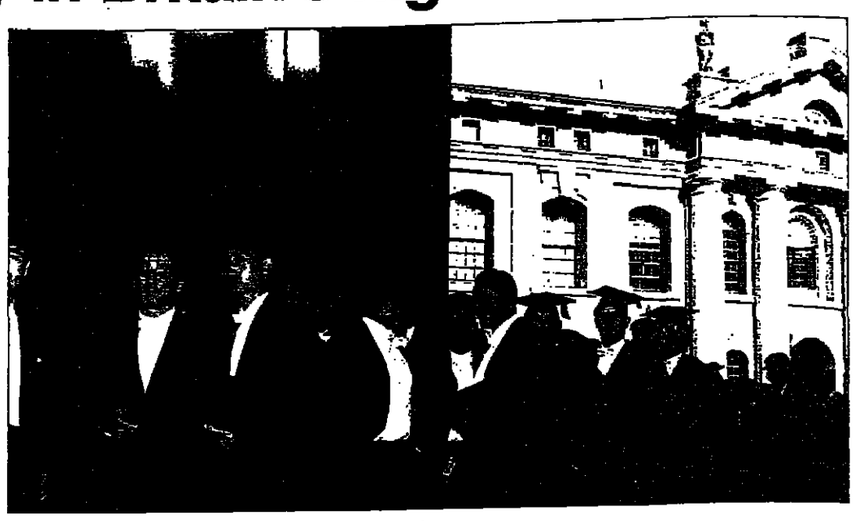
There are 17 specialist colleges which offer courses in just one academic subject area such as art and design, business and management, education, medicine or music. Although 16 institutions were established by church bodies to provide teacher training, most have now diversified their subject provision.

Higher education is also provided by another category of institutions, further education colleges of which there are some 300. More than 100 of these colleges offer degree courses which are validated by universities. One in eight higher education students attends further education colleges; however, most of these students, about three-quarters, are part-time.

Vital role

There is no doubt that universities and colleges play a vital role in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the U.K., and the recent expansion has meant that an increasing number of people are participating in the shaping of the society. Whatever else may be said about it, the expansion of higher education is leading to a less elitist society. But the most important aspect of an expanding education system is to tailor it to meet society's needs.

In a foreword to a Department for Education pamphlet on "Higher Education in the 1990s", Education Secretary Gillian Shephard put it most succinctly: "An increasingly knowledge-based economy and an even more competitive international economy will require a population educated to higher levels and standards. Universities and colleges will play a key role... serving both the nation and their local communities.



Matriculation day at Oxford University

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE IN JORDAN

Established in 1864, Société Générale is today France's largest privatised banking group and ranks 19th worldwide in terms of assets.*

Since the opening of its first overseas office in London in 1871, Société Générale has gradually built up a comprehensive international network which now comprises some 500 outlets in 70 countries worldwide.

As a full service bank, Société Générale is active in every sector of banking and finance (commercial banking, asset management, capital markets, specialised financing, investment banking...), serving individual and business customers alike.

In 1987, Société Générale was the first of the big French banks to be privatised - a reflection of its sound financial health. Individual shareholders are today strongly represented in Société Générale's shareholder base, as are French and foreign institutional investors.

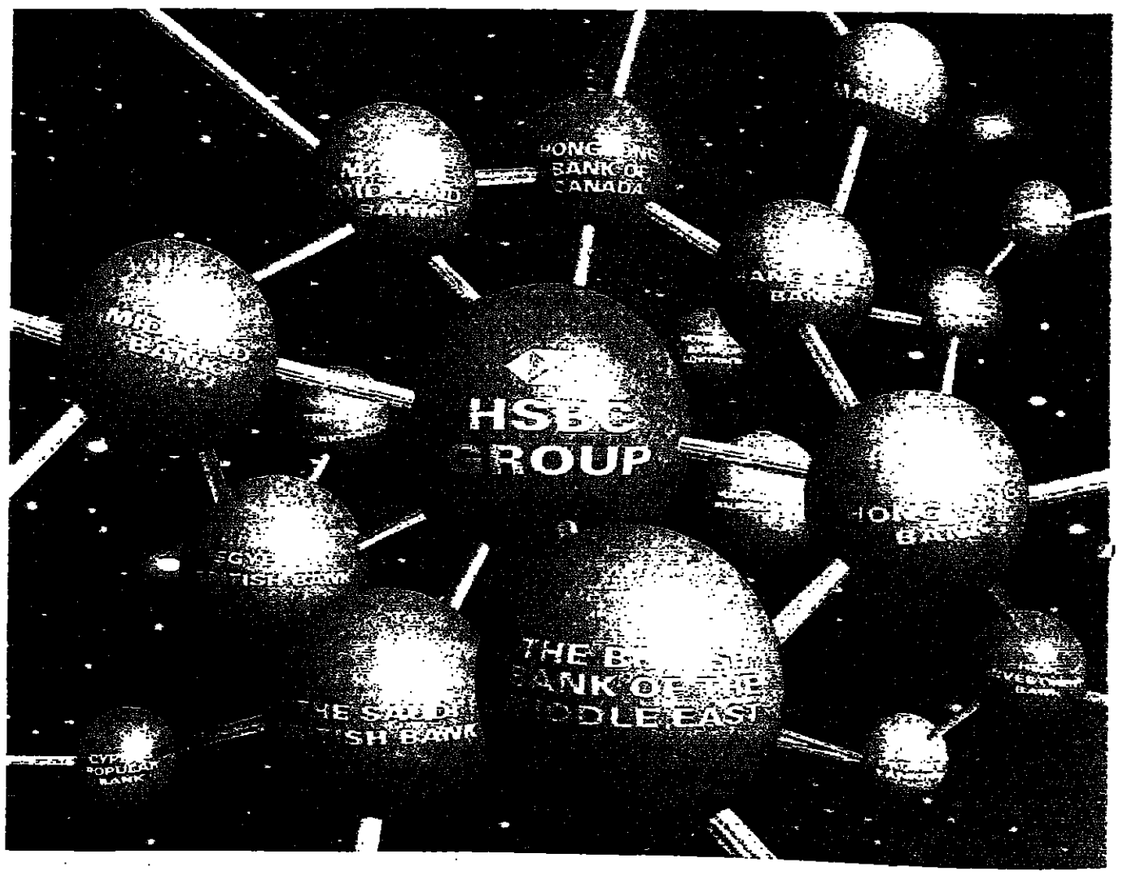
** Source "The Banker", July 1995.*

In Jordan, please contact:

Mr. Walid Irsheid, General Manager
Société Générale Regional Representative Office,
Shmeisani, P.O. Box 35192
Amman 11180, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 66 00 16 *Fax: (962-6) 67 58 70* *Telex: 23191 SG JO*

IDEALLY, YOUR BANK SHOULD BE WELL-CONNECTED



The ideal bank..... Widest choice in personal, private and corporate banking, with access to 235,000 ATMs in 87 countries • Convenient locations throughout the Middle East • Member of one of the world's largest financial groups, with assets exceeding $300 billion and 3,000 offices in 68 countries..... Are we describing your bank?

IDEALLY, YOUR BANK SHOULD BE THE BBME

البنك البريطاني للشرق الأوسط
The British Bank of the Middle East
HSBC
Member HSBC Group

Your local global bank.

Area Management Office - Tel: 607471

Art Group
AL-JUFUQ, Tel: 681628

Clint Eastwood has only one dream left — golf on film

By Caroline Smith
Reuter

LONDON — He has no dreams left to accomplish, no plans for future projects and does not want to work again this year, but Clint Eastwood has one goal from which it seems he will not be distracted.

He aims to get his golf handicap down to single figures from 15. And he would love to make a golfing movie.

"But there's something about a golfing film, you need to scout the locations a lot," said Eastwood, grinning widely at an audience of fans after a screening in London's National Film Theatre of his latest film The Bridges Of Madison County.

Eastwood has recently completed directing and starring in the movie, an adult love story set in Iowa, co-starring Meryl Streep.

It is a complete diversion from the gun-slinging, macho films Eastwood is best known for. Based on a romantic novel by Robert James Waller, the film captures perfectly an illicit affair between a bored farmer's wife and a roving photographer.

She was born in Italy and dreamed of a life quite different to the rural small-town America she ended up in with a dull but loyal husband. He is mysterious and rugged and knows how to treat — and charm — a woman.

Eastwood, who some would say was cast in a role intended for someone much younger than his 65 years, obviously identified with the untamed Robert Kincaid.

"I felt I've been somewhat of a character like this...I used to travel around alone," he said. But he added quickly that he had never come across any longing housewives.

The film looks at the story from Francesca Johnson's point of view — the dilemma she faces when the photographer with whom she has fallen deeply in love implores her to leave her family and come on the road with him.

Her strong sense of family weighs heavily and it is through her children, reading a vivid and moving account of the four-day affair in her journals after her death, that the audience discovers how deeply it affected her life.

"I thought it should be a romance," said Eastwood, describing the film as a middle-aged love story. Both Eastwood and Streep give moving performances.

Looking suave and relaxed in a pale grey suit with his silver hair shorter and slicker than in the movie, Eastwood charmed his audience with anecdotes that went back to his days in Rawhide, the television series that gave him his big break.

A CBS director casting the new 30-minute Western series picked him out and signed him up for the lead. The series began in 1959 and ran for eight years.

Eastwood said he began to learn the art of directing back then, watching the programmes being made week in, week out, even if the scripts were "really bad".

He said acting and directing together has its advantages —"I always listen to what the director says". He obviously relishes his dual role.

"Being behind the camera is a safer feeling...I always threaten to quit one or the other but I never do."

The early producers of Italian "spaghetti westerns" did not like Eastwood's somnambulant manner, preferring the lively and active style of Italian actors. But director Sergio Leone spotted the characteristics that were to make Eastwood into a cult figure.

Leone cast him in the lead of his new film, A Fistful Of Dollars, which took first Italy, then the world, by storm.

Later films, however, proved Eastwood could also adapt well to other roles. In 1969 he made the World War II adventure film Where Eagles Dare and the musical Paint Your Wagon.

And in 1971, when Frank Sinatra sprained his wrist, Eastwood replaced him in Dirty Harry. Eastwood played a tough San Francisco cop in the film, which was the year's second biggest box office success.

Eastwood directed Play Misty For Me, a thriller about a disc-jockey pursued by an amorous fan, and during the making of Dirty Harry he took over as director when Don Siegel fell ill.

In 1992 he directed, produced and starred in Unforgiven, a western that met with huge critical acclaim. The actor said it could have been "the perfect last western," but he was sure it was a genre that would continue.

"It can always continue. It's one of those genres everybody likes to revisit. I'd do another one if I could find the right story but I haven't," he said.

Eastwood won Oscars for best picture and best director for Unforgiven and was nominated for best actor.

But he claims he still has no idea what makes a good film, or why people go to the cinema at all.

"I'm always surprised when anybody wants to go *and see anything...I just* make a film if I like it and if I read it and say 'I'd like to see that'. Some of them fit in the commercial mainstream and some of them don't."

Winning the most coveted award in the film business was, for Eastwood, an experience he said he would rather not repeat.

"The next day I was glad that was over. I said "let's not do this again,'" he said.

As for ambition, Eastwood said he had no dreams still to accomplish. He says he fulfilled all political ambitions with a stint as mayor of Carmel, California, in the 1980s.

He has no interest in state politics and politely declined an invitation from the evening's host to run for *the prime ministership of* Britain, one met with hilarity by the mainly-British audience.

But there still remains that golf game.

Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep chat on the set of The Bridges Of Madison County

Cat Stevens

No room for old love songs in Cat Stevens' life

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

LONDON — Former British pop star Cat Stevens, whose ballads captured the hearts of millions in the mid-1970s, has returned to the recording studios for the first time in 17 years.

But the man who turned his back on the music industry in the late 1970s to further the cause of Islam says there's no place for catchy love songs in his new life.

Now known as Yusuf Islam, his new double album is a 66-minute narration of the life of the Prophet Mohammad and recordings of three traditional Islamic songs.

Teenagers who once swooned at his looks and sang along to Moonshadow, Lady D'Arbanville and Morning Has Broken are being replaced by young women in headscarves and Arab businessmen who prefer his rendition of the "adhan" call to prayer.

"I would divide my old songs into two. The spiritual ones, and those that are simply love songs which I would not recommend," said Yusuf.

"In the context of the Islamic way of life, love songs should be connected with marriage and a lot *of the songs leave that* completely out of the equation," he said

London-born Cat Stevens sold 25 million albums around the world before abandoning the music industry in 1978 after converting to Islam. He had eight consecutive gold albums, 10 hit singles in Britain and 14 in the United States.

Now a bearded 48-year old, he has no plans to return to the pop world despite still buoyant sales of old albums like Tea For The Tillerman.

"That chapter is closed. The records are there. They are still spinning. But if you want to know about me now, then listen to this CD," he said.

Calm and unruffled, Yusuf says he has finally found the peace and direction he had been searching for since a teenager.

"Many of the songs I wrote were unknowingly indications of the kind of person I wanted to be. Things like Peace Train and Morning Has Broken were all a feeling of stretching out for something higher than this world.

"There is nothing I really miss about the pop world. I am very happy with the balance of my life at the moment," he said.

Yusuf said his new recording The Life Of The Prophet Mohammad was probably the most important record he had made.

"I was stunned to find out that basic information about the Prophet *Mohammad is not known* by the general public, so I was inspired to produce this biography from which I hope people will get to know, understand and benefit from the Prophet as much as I have," he said.

He speaks and sings in both English and Arabic and the recording is expected to sell well both to Muslims and curious Western fans of his former style.

Born Steven Georgiou, Stevens was popular as much for his dark good looks as his tuneful, catchy songs in the 1960s and 1970s. He found early success with Matthew And Son, which told the story of a family company and exemplified his penchant for unusual lyrics.

The First Cut Is The Deepest, Here Comes My Baby and Wild World, other Stevens compositions, were made famous by others. After suffering tuberculosis in 1968, Stevens signed with the Island Label in 1970 which ushered in his golden period.

Tea For The Tillerman, Teaser And The Firecat and Catch Bull At Four were *huge successes, but* Stevens became increasingly disillusioned with pop and its pressures and by the late 1970s had become a virtual recluse.

Now married with five children, Yusuf has used the money he earned as a pop star to set up an Islamic school in London for 180 children and also helps to run four charity organisations.

He feels he should use the fame undiminished by 17 years of near silence to correct "exaggerated, out of context and distorted" perceptions of Islam, especially in the West.

He has toned down his public condemnation of author Salman Rushdie, who was condemned to death by the late Ayatollah Khomeini for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

Yusuf initially supported the fatwa in a move that dismayed many of his former Western fans. But he used the September launch of his new recording to put the record straight.

"Rushdie's book by his own confession, is based on fiction. My work is based on facts.

"*Therefore people* are free, they now have a choice, so let them listen and see which side of the story they are more inclined to believe," he said in a statement.

Australians mould 'soapies' for overseas markets

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reuter

GOLD COAST, Australia — Sun, sand and all things tanned that's what Australian soap operas are made of.

And the formula is winning international success.

Two out of the three soap operas, or 'soapies', currently in production in Australia are set in or around beaches.

Overseas television stations are willing to pay for all that sunshine, although many Australians are as likely to groan when the theme music starts.

A fourth soap, Pacific Drive, which went into production this week on Queensland's Gold Coast, home of Australian beach culture, has already been sold overseas without prior viewing.

"The sunny climate and casual talk is very appealing at a gut level," said Stuart Cunningham, director of the Centre of Media Policy at the Queensland University of Technology.

But Mr. Cunningham said the sunny life and classless society were not the only reasons Australian soaps were so successful. They are made cheaply, are in English and are geared for teenagers.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 63 million Australian dollars ($47 million) was earned in 1993/94 (to June 30) from Australian television exports of which a vast number were soaps.

A soap is defined as a serial where episodes roll into one whereas each episode in a series has a self-contained story.

Britain was the biggest buyer of programmes, spending $21 million, followed by the United States at $5 million, then New Zealand and Japan.

But Mr. Cunningham, co-writer of a book, Australian Television And International Mediascapes, due for 1996 release, said this figure was too conservative and exports were triple this amount.

The most popular soap, Neighbours, which celebrated its 10th birthday this year, is sold to over 35 nations including Russia.

Based in a Melbourne suburb, this soap launched the careers of Australian singing stars Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan.

The other two soaps currently in production are Home And Away and Echo Point, which are both beach-based.

Network Ten, however, this month announced plans to axe Echo Point but is planning to replace the show with a new soap based in a holiday island resort off Queensland's north coast.

Mr. Cunningham said the outdoor lifestyle of Australian soaps was more healthy than America's gin-soaked Dallas, anorexic Models Inc, or Britain's lager-guzzling Eastenders.

A survey in London last year found Australian soaps were low in alcohol and high in fibre compared to British serials.

The survey by the BBC's Good Food vegetarian magazine praised Home And Away and Neighbours as health-food role models with diets of fruit, vegetables, fish, and brown bread.

In contrast, the survey said Britain's Coronation Street was the unhealthiest with characters downing fry-ups and alcohol.

Several Australian production companies have realised the earning potential of a soap opera with a beach culture.

Village Roadshow Pictures and New World Entertainment of the United States in 1993 launched Paradise Beach, a low budget teen soap set on the Gold Coast in southern Queensland, targeting the U.S. market, which demands more glamour than Britain.

The programme was sold to over 20 countries in Europe, parts of Asia and South America before hitting the screen.

The show starred former models with little or no acting experience, and minimal clothing, as its lead actors.

It flopped within months.

"The quality of writing was not up to standard," said Sue Turnbull, a media studies lecturer at La Trobe University.

A spokesman for Village Roadshow on the Gold Coast said Paradise Beach was a hit overseas but did not rate in Australia.

"We still get letters now from overseas viewers asking where the beaches are so it was great for tourism," he told Reuters.

But he said Village and New World had now started working on Pacific Drive, with experienced actors this time.

Again the programme has already been sold overseas.

Ms. Turnbull said it would seem overseas markets cannot see enough Australian soaps, even running old programmes like The Sullivans, Prisoner, Country Practice and E-Street.

But despite the success overseas, Australian audiences are switching to other channels when soaps come on.

"The soap operas being made in Australia are more popular overseas than they are here," said Ms. Turnbull, the co-editor of Tomorrow Never Knows, a monograph on Australian soap operas.

"Here, viewers are switching from soaps to watch more drama," she said.

S. Africa's ballet loss is U.K.'s gain

By Robyn Green
Reuter

PRETORIA — Foreign ballet companies are scouting for talent in newly democratic South Africa and one of the first dancers to leave for a foreign stage is the country's most promising young ballerina, Leticia Muller.

Ms. Muller, 24, started at Britain's Birmingham Royal Ballet at the beginning of August.

"She is one of the most powerful stage presences I have ever seen," said David Bintley, newly appointed artistic director of the British company.

"I have seen most of the great dancers and she is up there with them." Decades ago South African dancers such as Deanne Bergsma, Merle Parks, John Cranko, Hendrik Gavel and Harold King were snatched up by overseas companies.

But the apartheid racial system which led to the country's cultural, political and economic isolation also meant generations of dancers were lost to the world and foreign ballet personalities shied away from visiting white-ruled South Africa.

"We have suffered from the boycott," said dance critic Adrienne Sichel. "We have wonderful talent. The dance world has always known that South Africa had a hell of a reputation. People were just not sure what was here anymore."

All that has changed since the election of President Nelson Mandela as the country's first black president last year.

Choreographers, producers and performers started to visit and most have been pleasantly surprised by the standards.

Mr. Bintley said of Ms. Muller: "I am creating a role for her. I see her as my muse. She inspires me enormously."

Ms. Muller will have her British debut in Mr. Bintley's 'Carmina Burana', set to Carl Orff's score, on September 27.

"It was an offer I could not refuse. Deep down I knew I had to go," the soft-spoken ballerina told Reuters.

Ms. Muller, who soared through the rigid hierarchy at South Africa's leading classical dance company, pact ballet to become its youngest principal ever, was spotted by Mr. Bintley last year in Pretoria.

"I thought he thought I was dreadful. It seemed like he did not notice me at all," said Ms. Muller. But the complete opposite was true.

Nothing was said at the time, but a Christmas card followed by a formal letter from Mr. Bintley to Ms. Muller, who agonised quietly for months over her decision before finally making the move.

Ms. Muller was also personally affected by apartheid. She was unable to live in South Africa for the first 15 years of her life.

Her German father and South African-Chinese mother were an 'illegal' couple under apartheid legislation which banned mixed marriages.

They could not live together in South Africa and had no option but to live in Germany, where Ms. Muller was born in 1970.

"My mother was terribly homesick," said Ms. Muller. "In 1985, when I was 15, we were able to come home."

A further irony was that when she auditioned for Pact's classical company, she was not accepted. She then chose to dance for the contemporary company, and it was only a year later that she was invited to join the Corps de Ballet.

Five years later she was elevated to top ranking.

"It really frightens me," said Ms. Muller of her move. "I don't know if I can live up to people's expectations."

Rock hall a place for quiet, too

By Rich Harris
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — There is no rock 'n' roll in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The memorabilia section of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and museum, which opens to the public Saturday, is alive with the music it celebrates. But the Hall of Fame is silent and dark. Which is just how the music shrine's backers envisioned it.

"That's probably the one place where we allow you to be a little reverential," said museum director Dennis Barrie. "To be a little quiet with your thoughts, to contemplate what these people meant to you."

Visitors enter the Hall of Fame by a circular staircase - in every crowd, at least one wit will dub it the "stairway to heaven," after the Led Zeppelin tune — leading to the somber chamber atop the six-story pyramid-shaped building.

The names and autographs of inductees from Al Green to Elvis Presley are etched in white on panels of black glass. Short biographies and pictures of the stars fade in and out on tiny television screens.

There is no music, no sound. The vaulted ceilings are faintly lit — appropriately, in a deep purple glow — giving the hall a sort of planetarium feel.

"There's a nice moment of being one with the great stars of rock 'n' roll - having a chance to just think about them and not have to react to their performance, to the sound, or be overwhelmed by being in the presence of their guitar or their costume," Barrie said during a media preview of the $92 million museum.

Architect I.M. Pei designed the glass, chrome and steel pyramid, built on the shore of Lake Erie. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was on Friday.

From vintage television sets and early recording equipment to the claymation figures used in a recent alice in chains rock video, the history of rock 'n' roll is illustrated in photos, videos, interactive computer exhibits and memorabilia.

Costumes on display include Madonna's cone-breasted "blonde ambition" outfit and a leather jumpsuit worn by Elvis. The huge white wall from Pink Floyd's The Wall tour shares a floor with a movie theatre.

Also among the memorabilia: the Temptations' gold-tone, four-prong microphone stand and sections of Otis Redding's doomed private plane.

Interactive touch-screens display a stylised flow chart showing the influences of musical pioneers on later stars. Touch a photo of the Beatles, hear a snippet of I Want To Hold Your Hand, then see and hear how Little Richard influenced Paul McCartney. On a tiny video inset, Tutti Frutti segues into the fab four singing 'I'm Down.

Other interactive exhibits give biographies and discographies of rock performers and chart 500 of the songs that influenced rock 'n' roll.

And the museum resonates with music, from rock to Motown, from the British invasion to Seattle's grunge.

But not the Hall of Fame.

"Very early on, even before we knew what the actual hall of fame was going to look like, it was always decided that it would be a quiet and reverential, contemplative type of place," said Bill Hulett, co-chairman of the hall's board of trustees.

"It would be a little tough to have a lot of music up there anyway," he said. "Whose music would you play?"

Pig-human heart transplant breakthrough claimed

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

LONDON — A British research company claimed a major breakthrough in transplanting animal organs into humans and said it hoped to start clinical trials putting pig hearts into people within a year.

Cambridge-based Imutran, which in 1992 bred the first "transgenic" pig bearing a heart with a human gene, said its advance in technology could make the worldwide shortage of heart, kidney and lung transplant donors a thing of the past.

"What we are announcing will give hope to thousands of patients around the world who would otherwise die as a result of waiting for a transplant," Imutran chief executive Christopher Samler told a news conference.

"These (transgenic pig) hearts and kidneys work. We have overcome the problems associated with hyperacute rejection. This represents a major breakthrough and a step forward to finding a solution to the organ donation crisis," Mr. Samler added.

Imutran has bred a herd of pigs whose hearts have been genetically manipulated with a human gene. Its experiments on monkeys have shown that primates can be tricked into accepting a pig organ without almost instant rejection.

The most recent experiments showed monkeys surviving for an average of 40 days with their new hearts, far longer than previous tests in the United States in which survival rates of only 30 hours were recorded.

Imutran said it had applied for the necessary approval from medical ethical bodies governing genetic technology around the world and was "moving with alacrity" through the procedures.

If all goes well, it plans to start clinical trials transplanting transgenic pig hearts into humans on about four or five patients at Cambridge's Papworth Hospital in early 1996.

The company shrugged off possible moral objections over the use of pigs to save humans.

"We have been using pig insulin for decades and pig heart valves. You can't accept the use of a pig heart valve and then object to using the whole heart to save someone's life," said research director David White. "I don't see serious ethical issues in using pigs for transplants."

Transplant operations between humans, started in the 1970s, have been so successful that demand now far outstrips supply.

About 30,000 people are on U.S. waiting lists for transplants. But the number of donors is at best static and in some countries, such as France and Germany, it is falling.

Scientists say pigs are the most suitable animals for transplantation because their organs are roughly the same size as those of humans. Their fast breeding and large litters will also ensure plentiful supplies.

Imutran said it did not expect the transplant technology to be generally available for at least five years.

"If this technology succeeds we will be able to help a lot more people lead not only longer but fuller lives," said John Wallwork, head of transplant surgery at Papworth Hospital.

The U.S. venture banking company Warburg, Pincus and Co is the major shareholder in Imutran.

New study suggests better methods for preventing strokes

By Christopher Connell
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wider use of a common medicine that prevents blood clots in patients with fast, erratic heart beats could prevent 40,000 strokes a year, a government-backed research study said.

The researchers also recommended better targeting of which patients should undergo carotid endartectomies, a procedure to clear the fat from blocked arteries.

Dr. David B. Matchar of Duke University, the principal investigator for the stroke-prevention study, said 5 per cent of Americans over age 65 have atrial fibrillation, in which the heart beats rapidly and erratically and which makes them more prone to blood clots.

Some 80,000 of these people suffer strokes each year in the United States.

"Our research ... indicates that optimal treatment with Warfarin, a drug that keeps dangerous clots from forming, can reduce the incidence of stroke in these patients by 50 per cent and could reduce the cost of stroke care by at least $600 million a year," he said.

Warfarin has been available for half a century, but Dr. Matchar said "it is underused because many physicians are concerned about its potential to cause bleeding in some patients."

But bleeding can be largely avoided with careful monitoring, Dr. Matchar said, and "when properly administered, we estimate that for every major bleeding complication it causes, the drug prevents 20 strokes and deaths."

The study is unfinished, but its sponsor, the U.S. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, took the unprecedented step of announcing the results early.

"We feel these findings can have such a profound effect on the lives of people at risk for stroke that we couldn't wait until this study is finished next year," said Clifton R. Gaus, the agency administrator.

Sniffing lavender helps folks sleep, study says

By Randi Hutter Epstein
The Associated Press

LONDON — Forget sleeping pills. Take a whiff of lavender.

The sweet smell of lavender oil helped four elderly insomniacs fall asleep quicker and sleep longer, a researcher says. Three of them stopped taking sedatives.

"On this limited, preliminary study, we got evidence to say there might be an effect," said Dr. David Stretch, a researcher at the University of Leicester in central England. He said a large trial would be necessary to verify the findings.

His report is published in a letter in the Lancet, a British medical journal.

"The results are very intriguing and very consistent with what we and others have found," said Dr. Alan Hirsch, director of the Smell and Taste Research Centre in Chicago.

Dr. Hirsch suspects lavender may have an even more powerful effect on young insomniacs because people tend to lose their sense of smell with age.

The new study involved four nursing home residents, all over the age of 65.

Three had been taking sleeping pills every night, but stopped taking them two weeks prior to the study.

They had trouble sleeping without any treatment. But the aroma of lavender, investigators found, worked just as well as sleeping pills.

The other subject, who was not taking sedatives, slept much better with lavender.

Dr. Hirsch said the olfactory bulb, the nose's nerve centre, lies close to the brain's reticular activating system, which controls the sleep-wake cycle.

He speculated that chemicals in the lavender oil flowed through the nose into the brain, somehow altering the biology of the sleep centre.

Dr. Stretch said he did not know whether the lavender oil worked like a drug, altering brain chemistry, or whether its effect was simply as a placebo.

"Smells are very difficult to study in the sense of being able to say whether anything is pharmacological or psychological," said Dr. Stretch.

Indian scientists develop 'quick AIDS test'

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian scientists have developed a simple blood test that takes only seconds to detect whether a person has the AIDS virus, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The new method, requiring no more than a drop of blood and a special chemical reagent, could prove a low-cost tool for fighting the deadly disease, especially in poor countries lacking sophisticated health care equipment, it said.

It could also enable Indian blood banks to screen all blood for the virus before storing it. Many of the country's 1,100 banks do not currently screen blood because they lack equipment, PTI said.

The new test, developed by biochemists at Delhi University, gave the correct analysis on all but one of 100 random samples, PTI said.

But the biochemists want to test at least 2,000 samples before deciding whether it should be marketed, the agency said.

"The rapidity and simplicity are the main virtues of this test," PTI quoted Vijay Chaudhary, who helped develop the test, as saying. Dr. Chaudhary and other scientists who worked on the test could not be reached for comment.

Currently tests to detect the two human immunodeficiency viruses, HIV-1 and HIV-2, require a centrifuge for separating blood as well as equipment which runs on electricity, not always available in poor, rural regions of the world, PTI said.

HIV can lead to the deadly acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

In the case of the test developed in Delhi, all that is required is a glass slide and a reagent, or a substance used in chemical reactions, prepared through recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA.

PTI said a drop of blood and a drop of reagent are mixed on a glass slide with a plastic stick.

Within five to 10 seconds the blood will "clump", as milk does when lime juice is added to it, if the sample has the HIV virus. Otherwise, there is no change in the appearance of the blood, PTI said.

Family closeness is key for chronically ill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Family closeness ranked as a key factor in the emotional well-being of teenagers grappling with chronic illness, a recent study found.

The study compared 1,683 middle school and high school students with chronic illnesses to a similar number of students without chronic illnesses in each of five ethnic groups: European-American, African-American, Asian, American Indian, and Hispanic. Chronic conditions included cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, and seizure disorders, along worth arthritis, scoliosis, and asthma, if severe enough to limit daily activities.

The researchers assessed the students perception of their emotional well-being. They also measured factors which might affect their emotional health, such as concerns about peer relationships, worries about school, and concerns about future occupations, as well as their sense of their body image and their perception of their family's closeness.

For adolescents with illnesses, the leading factors influencing emotional well-being were first their body image, and second family closeness. For adolescents without a chronic illness, the most important factor was family closeness, followed by body image.

Students who perceived their family connectedness as high obtained significantly higher emotional well-being scores than those who saw it as moderate. However, those perceiving family closeness as moderate obtained significantly higher scores than those who perceived their family as not very close.

More students with chronic conditions had negative body images than students free from these illnesses. Also a slightly higher percentage of chronically ill students saw their family connectedness as low. They also had more worries about peer relationships and the future.

In all five ethnic groups family closeness and a positive sense of body image were the two most important factors in predicting emotional well-being, whether a chronic illness was present or not, the researchers noted. They concluded that a family caring and belonging "is indispensable to adolescent emotional well-being."

They noted, "although adolescents with chronic conditions do less well than adolescents without chronic conditions, having a disability is not the most influential factor on emotional well-being. Family connectedness is of fundamental importance for adolescents' emotional health."

Since more students with chronic illnesses ranked family closeness as low, the researchers recommended strengthening a sense of family belonging, while at the same time avoiding parental overprotectedness which may lower the adolescent's sense of self and body image — U.S. National Institute of Healthcare Research.

Crib death decreases

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Crib death decreases dramatically in countries where parents follow recommendations that infants sleep on their side or back. So suggests a new study from the Netherlands published in a recent issue of Archives of Disease in Childhood.

The investigation showed a drop in the number of crib deaths from 1.04 deaths per one thousand in 1986 to 0.44 deaths per one thousands in Netherlands. The decrease is thought to be due to a decline in the practice of placing infants in the prone position (lying on their "stomachs") dropping from 60 per cent in 1986 to only 10 per cent in 1992. Dutch health authorities began educating parents in 1986 to avoid the prone sleeping position for their baby. Why sleep positioning makes such a difference is unknown.

Death in infants associated with respiratory illnesses also decreased. Although no one knows why crib death occurs, it is more likely with prematurity, maternal smoking and drug use, respiratory illnesses, and overheating.

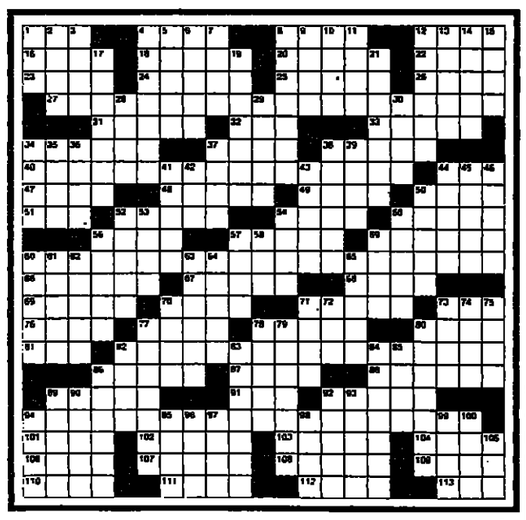
Australia and Britain followed the Dutch lead in 1991 in conducting national campaigns to decrease the number of infants sleeping on their "stomachs." For the last year most pediatricians and family practice doctors in the United States also have been recommending that parents keep their infants on their sides or back. This study confirms the wisdom of such recommendations — U.S. National Institute of Healthcare Research.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

GROUPINGS
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS
1 Carte leader
4 701
8 Chinese nurse
12 Stuff
16 React to yeast
18 Smart guy?
20 Deserves
22 Own
23 Speaker
24 Thermoplastic resin
25 Sluggish
26 Musical Burt
27 Depot group?
31 Mosque prayer leaders
32 Roller
33 — -valley
34 — screen (motion pictures)
37 Related
38 Brick of clay and straw
40 Woodsmen's group?
44 Pot
47 Boone, briefly
48 Lunchtimes
49 Large quantities
50 Cheat
51 Before
52 Cubic meter
54 Osseous
55 Acting profession
56 Saarinen
57 Animals collectively
58 Makes amends
60 Letter-perfect group?
86 Emotional outburst
87 Staff signs
88 Submerge
89 Extrinsic
70 Lover of Galatea
71 This can be a pet
72 Cruise
76 VIPs
77 Baby buggy
78 Abdul of song
80 Branches
81 Very long time
82 Foyer group?
86 Really try to see
87 Communications code word
88 Divisions of a long poem
89 Marshal
91 OSS follower
92 On — and a prayer
94 Procrastinating group?
101 Ballistic missile
102 Prutroca's creator
103 Author of "The Cloister and the Hearth"
104 Tushingham
106 — fixe
107 — House
108 Trigonometric functions
109 Prevent
110 Guns the motor
111 Deliver
112 Rather and Rowan
113 Ovine

DOWN
1 Garfunkel
2 Catalina cash
3 Sale condition phrase
4 Treacherous person
5 Assert one's right to
6 King mackerels
7 Davis' "Yes —!"
8 Theseus' helper
9 Author of "Buddenbrooks"
10 "— o'clock scholar"
11 Idol
12 Ingredient of chewing gum
13 Storms
14 U.S. painter, Milton
15 Disarrange
17 Relating to the summer
19 "— Wood" (Danny Kaye movie)
21 Dazes
28 USA word abbr
29 Chanty events
30 Arroyos
34 Marquis de —
35 Construction item
36 Solitary
37 "He makes no friend who never made —" (Tennyson)
38 Like some music
39 Say it isn't so
41 Like — the family
42 In favor of
43 Paving block
44 American diplomat Sato
45 Horatio —
46 Gloriy
50 Accumulate
52 American saint
53 Walked on
54 Future flowers
55 McQueen
56 Kelsuver
57 Expressions of disgust
58 TV alien
59 Tel —
60 "— in the Crowd"
61 Primitive pref
62 Edible bulb
63 Allman's "— and Mrs. Miller"
64 Out on — (exposed to danger)
65 Goal
70 Elvis — Presley
71 Insect stage
72 Name in rock
73 Discrimination
74 Melville opus
75 Young lady
77 One-actor
78 Viral disease
79 Business matters
80 Imposters
82 Inland sea
83 Raced a pleasure boat
84 Intense cold
85 Zest
86 Covets
89 Stage whisper
90 Address for a clergyman abbr
92 Yoga exercise posture
93 Realm
94 Muslim prince
95 Cheers, in Barcelona
96 Discharge
97 Maze
98 Diplomat Whitelaw
99 Liturgy of a church
100 Pack
105 Sman

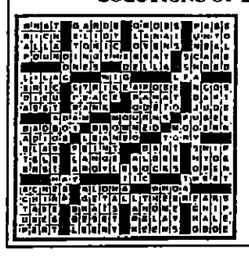


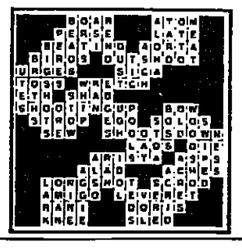
Diagramless, 19 x 19
By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 Tip to the utmost
7 Get up
11 Lands
15 Happening
17 Deadly game
19 Church sections
20 Medicinal plant
21 Barnyard residents
23 Pare
24 Magna —
26 Decays

DOWN
1 Discards as worthless
2 Wig
3 Winter apple
4 Photographer Adams
5 How sweet —!
6 Gun up
7 Tolls
8 "— Got a Secret"
9 Son of Eve
10 Go in
12 Those elected
13 Bull
14 Detecting device
16 Certain singers
18 Ship sailing boats, in a way
22 Users of a lettering pattern
25 — rule (usually)
27 Clams
29 Easter event
30 Sale
31 Transgressions
33 Drains
34 Buildings
37 PA town
39 Play in water
40 Underground workers
42 Grass cutter
44 Adore
46 Verve
48 — pastry
49 Inquire
50 Finished
51 Employs
55 — - foot oil
28 Matched collection
29 Sweet baked goods
32 Soaks flax
34 — Hawkins
35 Youth go
36 Sinclair —
37 Manon
38 Crow's cry
39 Rawboned people
40 Certain entertainer
41 Bluenose
42 Certain racer
43 Frilly stuff
44 Unspeakable ones
45 Picnic pest
46 Nations of great influence
47 Ornamental button
49 Hardwood
52 States strongly
53 Romanian dance
54 Fishing gadgets
56 Cudgel
59 Hawaiian geese
61 Asian peninsula
62 Lacerated
63 Poses
65 Spain
67 Coast
68 Rides the rapids
71 Sawyer Lena
72 Certain writer
73 Farmer's need
74 Bird sounds

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE





Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Busy expert farmer moves to condo in the city and receives payments from the government for not growing mushrooms in his window box.
2. Grabbing his bulging baggage, globetrotter hoards big jet and begins a lengthy journey to Gabon, Gibraltar and Bulgaria.
3. Perfect sign in a muffler shop: No appointment necessary; I'll hear you coming.
4. Perhaps there are too many uncivil employees in our civil service?

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TEDDY RL. SAMLAYAKDS TEYCUD SCUDI CRY PCWGD PIKACPIG UIMTCK AM I WIGS WAYS. KCC. — By Duane H. McGogy

2. NCEBUFC GOBAK DOWAWFL YOCMUYOCWPN PREVNU BRUN FRC OLVUU CMUVU WN NODUCK WP FEYGUVN. — By Ed Huddleson

3. KCRUOD FEZO CORWCH: DRN OUOD W XEZG FRIYM TON ED NCRISYO EX LO'M HOOK GE7 SET BRING ZGIN. — By K.C. Doyle

4. GROOREN DOPTS SPLA ACTPP GRN UDDWMEA GUYSPAY WE CRY KPYS: RELMA, WMALMA UEK SULMA. — By Frank N. Stein

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Egypt, where the ancient kings were buried in secret places.
2. A pangolin is a Malayan scaly and-eater.
3: Quicksilver.
4. Gilded bronze — Used for decorating furniture.
5. Ben Nevis (highest peak in U.K., 4, 406 ft.). The others are Volcanoes.
6. A green gem.

PUZZLE ME

Mexico's warrior peasants arm for revolt

A stone's throw from the beaches of Acapulco, the stage is set for violence. **Phil Davison** reports from Atoyaquillo

Military police march through San Andres Larrainzer, southern Mexico, to provide security at talks between Zapatista rebels and the government (AFP photo)

IN THE southern Mexican state of Guerrero, in the lush, barely accessible hills above the glitzy resort of Acapulco, history is repeating itself. As in the late sixties, peasants are arming themselves against a widely hated state governor by the name of Ruben Figueroa.

That was the name of the governor who launched a "dirty war" against Guerrero peasants who revolted a generation ago. Now his son, of the same, name, faces a new peasant rebellion which mirrors last year's Zapatista uprising in the state of Chiapas, farther south, but threatens to be even more explosive. More explosive because Guerrero's peasants have traditionally lived up to the name they gave the state: Guerrero means "warrior".

Their battling reputation began with the tough resistance of local Nahua Indians to the Spanish conquest, followed by the state's key role in the independence struggle against Spain, its strong support for the revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata, and the 1967-74 peasant uprising led by Lucio Cabañas and his Party of the Poor.

Local peasant and human-rights leaders say repression by Governor Figueroa's state police since he took over two-and-a-half years ago is far worse than that which led Cabañas to take to the hills against the late Ruben Figeroa senior in 1967. The climax came on June 28 this year, when 300 paramilitary policemen ambushed two lorryloads of peasants in a remote gulch near this village, opening fire from palm groves, killing 17 and wounding 14.

"Since then, the situation has been really tense," said Victor Cardona, an official in the town of Atoyac, 50 miles west of Acapulco, where Cabañas's seven-year rebellion began.

We sat in the main square outside the town hall, in the shade of tamarind and mango trees, where Figueroa's police killed eight people in May 1967 during an anti-government rally. Cabañas, who had just made an anti-government speech, escaped and took to the hills, initiating a seven-year guerrilla uprising of several hundred armed peasants.

After Cabañas kidnapped Figueroa for four months in 1974, the governor's men stepped up their "dirty war", killing, torturing or "disappearing" hundreds of guerrilla sympathisers and family members. A secret force known as the White Brigade, including federal Mexican troops and Guerrero state police, tracked Cabañas down and killed him in December 1974. He remains a folk hero in these hills, on a par with Zapata. "Lucio lives," says red-painted graffiti outside the town hall.

"That the people have weapons, there is no doubt," said Mr. Cardona, who supports the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), the main centre-left opposition to the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). "They've been preparing. They always carried guns, mostly hunting rifles, for self-defence. But now they're getting other weapons. If people keep attacking them, they'll use them."

Javier Mojica, an Acapulco general practitioner who runs the independent Centre for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights, said: "Armed struggle may be inevitable. Conditions are certainly right. Repression is far worse than in the Seventies under Figueroa senior. As people here say: 'Hijo de tigre, pintito'," the Spanish equivalent of "like father, like son."

Florencio Salazar, a former federal MP for the ruling PRI, said recently: "A new guerrilla war is possible. The conditions exist, and there are radical elements seeking violence to change the order of things."

The vanguard of new peasant revolt is the Peasant Organisation of the Southern Sierra (OCSS), remarkably similar to the semi-clandestine peasant groups that operated in Chiapas before crystallising into the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), which hit world headlines on New Year's Day 1994. According to Lucio Cabañas's brother David, in prison in Mexico City for his own anti-government guerrilla activities, the old Party of the Poor still exists and is supporting both the Guerrero rebellion and the Zapatista cause.

The Mexican authorities believe the Party of the Poor was behind a wave of "sympathy" bomb attacks around the nation in the days following the Chiapas rebellion.

"This is a dispersed army, fed by new generations," Mr. Cabañas said. "With more groups, the task will be easier. Victory is closer at hand."

The word in these hills is that the Party of the Poor or a related political guerrilla group was behind last year's kidnapping of Mexico's best-known banker, Alfredo Harp Helu. Carlos Salinas, then the president, called the kidnappers common criminals. But it later emerged that Father Maximo Gomez, a Catholic priest from Atoyac widely said to have contact with anti-government guerrillas, had mediated Mr. Harp's release in exchange for $17 million.

The tortuous trip to the mountain hamlet of Atoyaquillo, barely 10 miles from the Pacific coast but requiring a four-wheel-drive vehicle to negotiate a deep-rutted mud path and several fast-flowing rivers, reveals the sub-human poverty in which the majority of Guerrero peasants live. It was from this village of 500 souls that the victims of the June 28 massacre came, some to shop, others to demand a decent road, farm credits and fertiliser for their corn plots.

Even in less tense times, it is not a place for outsiders to venture. There are common bandits, heavily-armed police who act with impunity and pistoleros working for the drug lords who pay peasants to grow marijuana and opium poppies instead of corn, beans or coffee.

Hilda Navarrete Gorjon, an extraordinary peasant woman who sells tacos in the market in Coyuca while running a peasant human-rights group called La Voz de los Sin Voz (the Voice of the Voiceless), said I would be safe with her, at least from the peasant guerrillas.

As we negotiated a 100-yard-wide cascading river on what she assured me was a stone dam only a couple of feet beneath the surface but invisible to a stranger's eye, she said she had often seen armed men by the roadside. "They know me. They know my blue bandana," she said, adjusting it to a more visible position across her head. Passing the scene of the June massacre, at Hammocks Creek, she launched into a touching local corrido about the killings.

"I'm going to sing you a ballad, without aggravation and without disgust, about what happened in the district of Coyuca, not far from Acapulco," she sang.

Blood-soaked coconuts and the beginnings of what the peasants call a Monument of Ignominy marked the site. When we reached Atoyaquillo, where dogs, cows, huge black pigs and chickens mingled with men, women and children inside mud huts, survivors described how the police had blocked the path and opened fire for 10 minutes from coconut groves and thick bush on all sides.

The peasants had been travelling in the only form of transport here — cattle trucks with rubber awnings against the sun. "I'd been lying on the awning, others were clinging to the back and sides," said Miguel Martinez, 37. "When they opened fire, I noticed the hills were black," the colour of the police uniforms.

"Those below were trapped," he continued, "but I managed to get beneath the lorry. Then I found myself bathed in blood which was gushing from the dying above. After 10 minutes of solid gunfire, the police walked up, fired bullets at survivors and kicked and walked on the bodies. I was covered in blood. They must have thought I was dead."

As we spoke, two dozen state policemen in pick-up trucks passed through the hamlet and glared. The villagers gazed back at them impassively. "Every time I see them I'm scared," said Mr. Martinez. "We support the OCSS, we're with Lucio Cabañas, we're with Zapata. The courage is there but we're only one or two. They are so many."

The Independent.

Arabs meet

(Continued from page 1)

honour, a vaguely worded document which could mean all things to all men, had a similar credibility problem, given the divisions in the Arab world.

"The code should embody something," he said. "Proposing this code independently of Arab reconciliation is an academic exercise. We don't object to it but from a realistic point of view we believe an Arab summit is needed first," he added.

"It's going to be ratified but I don't think it's going to be implemented because it is founded on nothing," he said.

The main current disputes are between Iraq and its Gulf war enemies and Egypt and Sudan. Several other pairs of states have longstanding border disputes.

Dr. Abdul Meguid recommended the Arab states coordinate a strategy for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman next month but he repeated the league's view that economic integration between Arab states should precede economic links with Israel.

Trade with Israel should wait on a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, he added.

Ministers from the eight Damascus Declaration states — Egypt, Syria and six Gulf countries — were to meet in Cairo later on Wednesday.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, returning to territory on which an Arab consensus is easier, blamed Israel for slow progress towards Middle East peace, especially with the Jerusalem celebrations.

We drew a parallel between the celebrations and an Israeli plan earlier this year to confiscate land in Arab East Jerusalem for Jewish settlement. It dropped the plan under Arab and international pressure.

"Israel has gone far too far... Israel's position, which is contrary to the peace process and which seeks to undermine the foundations of it, demands of us that we take intensive action similar to the action we took in May," he said.

"We must mobilise all our resources, diplomatically, through the media and among the public to expose the Israeli claims on this massive historic fraud," he added.

The secretary-general, who visited Algeria earlier this month and agreed to send Arab League observers to presidential elections in November, gave a ringing endorsement of the government's campaign to crush rebels.

"I felt how serious the Algerian leadership is about ending this serious situation which Algeria is in and I would like to confirm that Algeria is well despite everything published and broadcast about it," he said.

"The Algerian people... support the presidential elections. They are elections to enshrine constitutional legitimacy, in the framework of national reform," he added.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said the U.N. Security Council should create a permanent Arab seat to give weight to the important role played by Arab countries in world affairs.

"The U.N.'s intentions to enlarge the framework of the Security Council confirms that the Arab demand is just," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

He said a permanent Arab seat would "restore an imbalance which has happened in the council and ensure a regional equilibrium."

"Arab countries carry an important political weight," he added.

The five permanent members of the council — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — are in discussions to include Japan and Germany.

Dr. Abdul Meguid also called for Libya to be allowed to take part in a landmark European-Mediterranean conference.

"The Barcelona conference, which will mark a turning point European-Mediterranean partnership, must be based on a cooperation grouping all the Arab countries, without exception," he said.

So far seven Arab countries and the PLO have been invited in the Barcelona talks to be held in November: Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Syria and Lebanon have agreed to take part despite the presence of Israel, the Arab League said.

The eight foreign ministers already invited were due to meet Wednesday with Libya and Mauritania to urge the European Union to allow them to also take part in the conference, the Algerian ambassador in Cairo Moustapha Cherif, said.

Dr. Abdul Meguid also called on Baghdad to speed up implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions to "end the sufferings of the Iraqi people" resulting from a U.N. embargo imposed after Baghdad's invasion.

He referred to the release of Kuwaitis held since Baghdad's seven-month occupation of the emirate.

Study finds polarisation in Jordanian society

(Continued from page 1)

ism of East Bankers, excluding Palestinians from sensitive government jobs and the lack of proper representation of Palestinians in government and Parliament.

The study said while some blame the policies of the Jordanian government for the state of polarisation between the two communities, others hold the hostile policies of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) towards Jordan responsible for "pushing the regime towards 'self-defence policies'" centred on strict controls that sacrificed institutionalism.

"Jordanians' fears from the increasing numbers of Palestinians are serious," said the study, adding that these fears can only be dealt with through legislation within a framework of unity.

The study said the suspicion with which the state looks at Palestinians' loyalty to the country could explain the discrimination against Palestinians that some say exist in Jordan.

A number of factors that include fears about the loyalty of Palestinians led the state to build a number of institutions on archaic social basis such as tribalism and sectarianism, the study said.

"It is possible that in the past period, and within the policies of 'self-defence,' the state built such institutions as a source of stability and continuity," said the study.

This situation, it said, consolidated the practices of "hand outs" and strengthened the concept of sectarian loyalties. It did not explain?

To redress the situation, the study recommended official policies to end all forms of discrimination, corrective measures that can lead to a more equitable distribution of national wealth among the two segments of society and a channelling of funds to underdeveloped areas where dependence on local resources should be established.

While the public sector should be open for Palestinians, said the study, a firm affirmative action should be followed for a transitional period of time to ensure the redistribution of the national wealth in an equitable manner.

"We demand an end to all forms of discrimination" as a way to ensure the national unity of Jordan, said the director of centre, Mustafah Hamarneh.

Dr. Hamarneh said the system of "hand outs" must be replaced with a modern structure that allows for advancement on the basis of merits and citizenry.

"To end the state of polarisation, we must put an end to the client-patron relationship in the country," said Dr. Hamarneh.

The study said that as a first step towards addressing the situation, "democracy and pluralism must be consolidated as an essential framework for modernising the state."

This, said the study, will put an end to the imbalances in employment patterns and makes citizenry and merit the criteria for building the modern state.

Success in opening the door for advancement for all Jordanians regardless of origins and without any form of discrimination will lead to a change in the relationship between the citizen and the state.

The study recommended the opening of the public sector to Palestinians but stressed that some sort of "affirmative action" should be followed for a while to compensate Jordanians for the economic losses they incurred as a result of their work at the public sector and forgoing opportunities such as working in the Gulf.

"With time, the national income would be redistributed in a more equitable way" that would redress the economic imbalances which currently favours the Palestinians who dominate the economy.

This process of reform should be accompanied by an official and public policy to consolidate national unity through emphasising the practical and historical factors for such unity.

"Romantic slogans... and unilateral and forced proposals present, in the final analysis, solutions that call for consolidating duality, which will in turn harm society and the country," said the study.

As far as the identity of the communities is concerned, the study said that as Jordanians recognise the Palestinian dimension of the Jordanian identity, the Palestinian officialdom should recognise that there is a basic Jordanian dimension to the Palestinian entity.

"The official Palestinian institutions (must also recognise) that Jordanians and Palestinians in Jordan are concerned and affected on daily basis by developments in the pure Palestinian circles," said the study.

Setback to reconciliation

(Continued from page 1)

the Kingdom supports any move towards pan-Arab reconciliation.

Denying reports that Jordan's ties with Syria are strained, Mr. Kabariti said there was a "freeze," but that he welcomed a meeting with his Syrian counterpart if the latter desires that. He said that Jordan is quite open to dialogue.

Mr. Kabariti has already held meetings with the foreign ministers of Oman and Bahrain in the presence of Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nayef Al Qadi.

Iran plane

(Continued from page 1)

called on the government to use the plane and passengers as hostages in exchange for news about Arad.

Tehran repeatedly calls for the destruction of the "Zionist entity" and Israel considers the Islamic republic its worst enemy.

In Tehran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said: "We have repeatedly said we have no information," on Arad.

"We reject linking this to the release of the plane and its passengers to the fate of this person. Whatever (Israel's) excuses are, this amounts to an act of support for terrorism," he said.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri blasted Israel on Wednesday for delaying the return of the plane and "shamelessly" interrogating its passengers.

He described the hijacking as a "plot" conceived by Israel and the main armed Iranian opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen.

Mr. Nateq Nuri the United Nations to obtain the return of the plane and passengers.

The military plane was on a civilian flight to the Iranian holiday island of Kish when it was hijacked.

Since the hijacking began TTuesday morning, Iranian officials have issued angry statements attacking Israel and accusing it of collusion with the hijackers.

Taba talks

(Continued from page 1)

nator for the Middle East Denis Ross, he finally consented to carry on.

After a two-hour suspension the talks resumed and new maps were submitted to the Palestinian side.

Mr. Peres took some of the blame for the problem, saying Mr. Arafat had misunderstood Israeli-drawn maps as indicating Israel would only pull out of Palestinian cities, leaving them as isolated islands amid Israeli-controlled territory.

"We had a crisis because a wrong impression was created that we suggested to the chairman a map of cantons," Mr. Peres told reporters. "We don't intend to create cantons on the West Bank."

The two sides appointed a committee to redraw the maps — with Mr. Arafat heading the Palestinian side. Mr. Peres predicted that the problems could be overcome and overall agreement could be reached Wednesday.

The talks recessed at about 1:45 p.m. (1045 GMT) Wednesday. The Israeli delegation left Taba, but one member, Major General Ilan Biran, said they would return later. He said the morning session had been difficult.

"There have been frictions," Gen. Biran said, adding: "Frictions sometimes lead to joy — or to pain."

Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Irdeineh suggested there had been some progress on Israeli troops redeployment and Hebron.

"The talks now are closer to the Palestinian paper than to the Israeli paper," he said. But he gave no details.

On Tuesday, the negotiators resolved a number of issues, notably concerning archaeological and religious sites, Peres said.

The problem of Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem was settled under an arrangement which will allow Israelis unhindered access to the site under the protection of Israeli soldiers who will guard the route which leads to the tomb.

Israel, meanwhile, sealed off the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, barring thousands of Palestinians from their jobs in the Jewish state. No reason was given for the measure, which usually is a reaction to an attack on Israelis (see page 12)

Turkmen arrives

Continued from page 12

Investment in bonds last year was not rewarding for all who got involved in it but this year the situation looks more promising, he said.

Concerning the decision of UNRWA to close down the Educational Sciences Faculty, a decision which it later postponed for a year, Mr. Turkmen said the move was prompted by finical constraints and the difficulty in hiring professors.

Mr. Turkmen said he discussed the issue with Sharif Zeid, stressing that the agency wants to improve the quality of education the college offers.

He said he hoped the difficulty in finding professors will be solved in cooperation with the Jordanian government.

Mr. Turkmen, who said he could not meet with representatives of refugees in Jordan due " time constraints," added he hoped the meeting will take place when he visits the Kingdom again next month.

UNRWA's Commissioner general defended the agency's decision to dismiss the dean of the Educational Sciences Faculty for publicly criticising the agency over its earlier decision to close the college as a procedure necessitated by UNRWA's rules.

"The decision was taken with regret but rules are rules," he said.

Addressing the plight of Palestinians who have been expelled from Libya, Mr. Turkmen said UNRWA is willing to offer assistance to them in its areas of operation but stressed that their situation is being addressed by the Arab League.

Analysts warn of possible winter oil price collapse

LONDON (R) — Fast-rising crude supplies are likely to outstrip strong world demand this winter and send oil prices into a tailspin, market analysts say.

Today's oil market bears a striking resemblance to that of 1985 and there is an outside chance of single-digit crude in a rerun of the early 1986 oil price collapse, they warn.

Oil prices at the moment are riding three-month highs boosted by U.S. buying to replenish low inventories ahead of peak winter demand. Benchmark North Sea Brent Blend recently hit $17 barrel, up from the low of the year in July of $15.40.

But oil stocks are building fast, output from non-OPEC countries is set to jump again and several members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are cheating on their production quotas.

The current price rally will not last long, analysts say.

"A wall of crude from both OPEC and non-OPEC is set to hit the market in the fourth quarter. I see stocks building up right here in front of our noses," says oil economist Mehdi Varzi at finance house Kleinwort Benson.

"By mid-October I expect to have seen prices peak. And then it could come pretty rapidly," he pointed out.

Oil in transit at sea hit eight-year highs at the end of August, consultants Richardson Lawrie estimate. Oil in transit rose by 17 million barrels over the month to 761 million barrels with a significant proportion due for arrival at U.S. terminals and Caribbean storage in October, said Richardson Lawrie.

World oil inventories probably will grow by about 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) in the third quarter on top of more than a one million b/d build in the second quarter, London's Centre for Global Energy Studies estimates.

"This level of inventory build is going to lead to a price crisis in the first quarter of next year," says Kleinwort's Varzi. "My fear is, and I give it a one-in-five chance, that we could see a repetition of the events of '86," he says.

Crude then dipped below $10 as OPEC linchpin Saudi Arabia restored market share in the face of rising non-OPEC volumes.

Mr. Varzi has cut his forecast for Brent on average next year from $17.50 to $16.

Analyst Geoff Pyne at bankers UBS has reduced his price outlook for next year from $18 to $16. "1996 appears increasingly bleak," he says. "Today's market mirrors late 1985 when stocks were low and demand for OPEC oil falling."

World demand in 1996 should go up again for the third year in a row to reach 71.2 million b/d, the International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts. But surging non-OPEC supplies will capture the demand growth, averaging 43.7 million b/d in 1996, up 3.2 million b/d in the space of three years, the IEA says.

Unless OPEC plugs the leaks which saw it pump more than a million b/d over its 24.52 million ceiling in August the group could be pumping well in excess of market requirements next year, the IEA figures indicate.

Oil prices have rallied in recent weeks with the help of U.S. crude inventories at 16-year lows. But the lean U.S. stocks may be misleading, analysts say.

"There has been a deliberate and conscious decision by the U.S. oil industry at large to live on low stocks since they are obtaining more and more of their needs from sources close to home," says Mr. Varzi. Rising supplies from the likes of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela are reducing U.S. dependence on crude from producers further afield, particularly the Middle East, he says.

Economic divide threat to Mediterranean stability--officials

NICOSIA (AFP) — The growing economic divide between northern and southern countries along the Mediterranean represents the biggest threat to long-term stability in the region, official said Wednesday.

Francesco Parisi, a deputy and senior planning officials with the Council of Europe, said 200 million people live between Morocco and Turkey, but their annual income is 15 times less than in northern Mediterranean countries.

"This unequal economic development will lead to instability in not only the southern countries, but Europe as well," Mr. Parisi said, at the opening in Cyprus of the Fourth Conference on Mediterranean Regions.

Representatives from Europe, the Middle East and North Africa are here to tackle problems such as racism and immigration, forest conservation, water sharing and long-term economic development.

"We know that the stability and prosperity of the entire Mediterranean region is essential to that of the rest of Europe," said Jacques-Mederic Chevrot, vice president of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

He said poor countries in North Africa, the Middle East and other areas along the Mediterranean were trapped in a vicious circle. Their economic problems have caused political instability, which in turn scares off potential foreign investors.

"This reduces the prospects of economic development," Mr. Chevrot said.

Antonella Cagnolati, head of the Council of Europe's commission on the environment and land management, said before the three-day conference began that one major issue would be immigration.

She said European countries can no longer economically sustain large immigration from North African and Middle Eastern countries Helping those governments to control population growth and develop economically would in turn benefit European stability, she told AFP.

"The birth rate is very high in many of these countries," she said. "European countries can no longer absorb such a large number of immigrants."

The conference, which is being attended by government leaders, academics and business officials, opened in Nicosia and will then move to the Cypriot coastal resort of Limassol.

"The goal of this conference is to bring together Mediterranean countries to deal with these issues on a regional basis," Ms. Cagnolati said.

FAO sees food aid shipments dwindling next year

ROME (R) — The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned Wednesday that food aid shipments to the world's poor and hungry nations were seen falling next year to their lowest level since the 1970s.

The Rome-based agency said the same "low income food deficit" countries would be hit further by sharply rising cereal import costs forecast for the 1995/96 year.

"Many national food crises persist in Africa and several other parts of the world, and the food supply situation is seen to be tightening in many parts for the 1995/96 year," FAO said in its latest Food Outlook report.

It said its forecast of total food aid in cereals to be provided in 1995/96 (July/June) was 7.6 million tonnes.

"At the forecast level food aid shipments would be down by nearly one million tonnes compared to 1994/95 and their lowest since the mid 1970s," FAO said.

"Moreover for the second consecutive year, food aid shipments in cereals would fall sharply below the minimum annual target of 10 million tonnes to developing countries established by the World food Conference in 1974," it added.

FAO said that cereal production in southern Africa was likely to be about one third below normal in 1995/96 and the sub-region's cereal imports and food aid needs had risen substantially since the previous year.

Large numbers of refugees in Rwanda and Burundi would continue to require emergency aid while excessive rainfall and floods had damaged crops in South East Asia.

Japan unveils spending binge to revive economy

TOKYO (R) — Japan Wednesday unveiled a mammoth economic package worth 14.22 trillion yen ($136 billion) — its largest ever public spending binge — in the latest of a long series of steps to boost its stagnant economy.

Economists said the steps, including record public spending of 12.81 trillion yen ($123 billion), would nudge up growth in the fiscal year to March 1996 and help a bit more in 1996/97.

But it leaves unsettled such thorny problems as land and other tax reform, deregulation, and how to cope with the masses of bad debt weighing down the financial system.

Japan's economy has been trapped in the doldrums for some four years and the government has now pledged over 60 trillion yen ($576 billion) since 1992 in an effort to spend its way back to recovery. The package was the sixth such bundle of fiscal steps since August 1992 and the third this year alone.

The fresh public spending tops a 15.25 trillion yen ($146 billion) package in February 1994, which included cuts of some six trillion yen ($57.6 billion) in income tax and other taxes.

The package mandates about eight trillion yen ($76.9 billion) in local and central government spending that would directly boost economic growth, and will be funded by a similar amount of national and local government bonds. Other steps include loans to help smaller firms develop new business.

The spending steps come after a cut in the nation's key discount rate earlier this month to a record low 0.5 per cent to help get the long-stalled economy back in motion and help financial institutions struggling with masses of bad debt.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last month publicly voiced concern about Japan's problem-plagued banking sector, welcomed the package and said in a statement that it would provide a "significant boost" to the Japanese economy.

Private economists welcomed the fact authorities managed to craft a bigger package than anticipated and said the spending, plus a weaker yen, would keep the economy from shrinking.

"It's bigger than expected. We have been at near-zero growth; but with this peakage we might get to around one per cent growth in 1995/96 and 1.5 per cent 1996/97," said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute.

But many lamented a failure to grapple with politically contentious issues such as tax reform, deregulation and use of public funds to cope with financial institutions' bad loans.

"It's big, it has a lot of sugar, but not so much protein," said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers Asia.

Only hours after the package's release, Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita said he was still worried that the nation's economic stalemate might be prolonged and urged the government to tackle economic reform and deregulation.

Experts warn of Asian airports bursting at seams as air traffic surges

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — International aviation experts have warned that already congested airports in Asia might not be able to cope with increasing air traffic, which is forecast to more than triple by 2010.

"(The region) will need massive infrastructure improvements if it is to cope with the nearly 400 million passengers expected by 2010," said John Meredith, executive director of the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG).

ATAG is a working committee within the Geneva-based International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Many Asian airports were already bursting at their seams last year when about 122 million passengers passed through them, Mr. Meredith told participants at the start of a two-day IATA conference on Asian infrastructure here.

"By the end of 1995, nearly half of all international airports in the region will be capacity constrained, unable to cope with demand at major periods of the day," he added.

The Asia Pacific's share of worldwide scheduled passenger traffic will have jumped from just 26.6 per cent in 1985 to over 50 per cent in 2010.

And despite efforts to expand current facilities and to build new airports, the long gestation period for these projects was pushing Asia towards a chronic shortage in air transport infrastructure.

"Substantial as the planned investment is compared with other regions of the world, there is a grave danger that it will not be sufficient," Mr. Meredith said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Day hours are fine for reaching a true understanding with those you want to deal with later today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use neat touch and fine finish on any tasks you may be doing and get fine results. Discuss with an associate what is best to do.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Early today play the entertainment you want to have with those you truly like, then later tonight complete tasks which have been started.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make your surroundings more charming and enjoy them more, and then later today go out and seek new pleasure.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to build the ego of associates and all goes more smoothly today. Tonight is fine for enjoying home and family.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use your finest talents and get your affairs in the order and plan to be more efficient in the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you use your charm and good thoughts toward others today, you can accomplish a good deal towards your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do your best to convince others to go along with your plans and you can accomplish a good deal of activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for cooperation from a good friend to gain that desire which means a good deal to you in a new project.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use your charm on an influential person and gain the support you need at this time for some worthwhile project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Put some special talent to work and it should go very smoothly for you. More attention should be paid to your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Improve relationship with those who associated with you and accomplish more. Continue that recreation activity for health purposes.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Home affairs can be handled easily this morning, but later today use much care in handling persons in business.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Activities at your desk diligenttly this morning since later you find a partner could be disappointing to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Early this morning get those practical affairs nicely handled so that later today you can take care of travel matters wisely.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Gain that personal longing this morning, since later today you have to contend with a problem in entertainment plans.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It is important that you use tact at home and avoid a possible argument of magnitude. Have a good time with friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make that call and talk to one you have long wanted to converse with this morning since later today there are delays in your plans.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do whatever will make you feel more secure in the days ahead. Get your practical affairs in good order.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may find it difficult to gain your wishes last work day of the week. Show that you have patience towards your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Use your fine ingenuity to rid yourself of obstacles in the path of your personal progress. Be more gentle towards your mate.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may meet with a disappointment where some personal wish is concerned today, but don't give up and it will soon be yours.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Keep out of the limelight both during the morning and tonight and avoid criticism of any kind.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want to get into new and untried avenues of expression today but this would be disappointing and hazardous.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"I take it all back, Stanley. I'm sorry I said you were boring and predictable!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROPEA

MESAU

KRAYBE

PIMNED

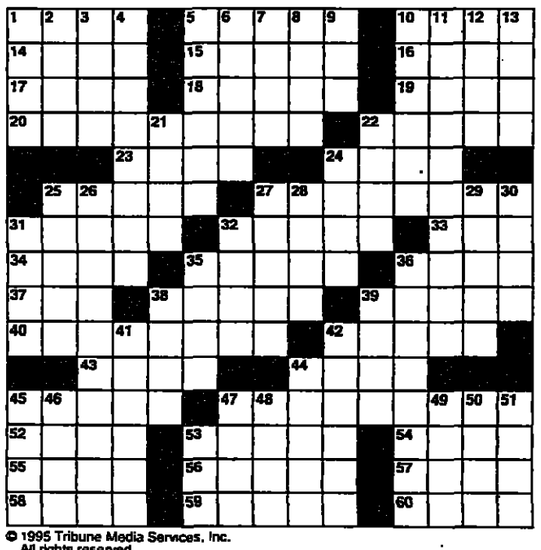
©1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EVENT FELON CAUCUS BREACH
Answer: How the model cashed in on her looks — AT "FACE" VALUE

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chew



ACROSS
1 Mil. gp.
5 Diving bird
10 Ski-lift feature
14 Top: pref.
15 Revere, for one
16 McEntire of song
17 Musial
18 Rage
19 Got down
20 Tom Jones, e.g.
22 Loafs
23 Fuss
24 Cake decorator
25 Pitcher's target
27 Most likely winner
31 Coliseum
32 Reddy
33 Bill
34 Fissure
35 Sheltered bays
36 Indian city
37 Quantity: abbr.
38 Rajah's spouse
39 Astronaut/senator
40 Solon
42 Watered silk
43 "Dies —"
44 Tonto's "Kemo —"
45 Type of truck
47 Excellent thing
52 One-celled plant
53 Lukewarm
54 Beloved of Radames
55 On one's — (alert)
56 Overact
57 Salver
58 Present
59 Flax product
60 Shade trees

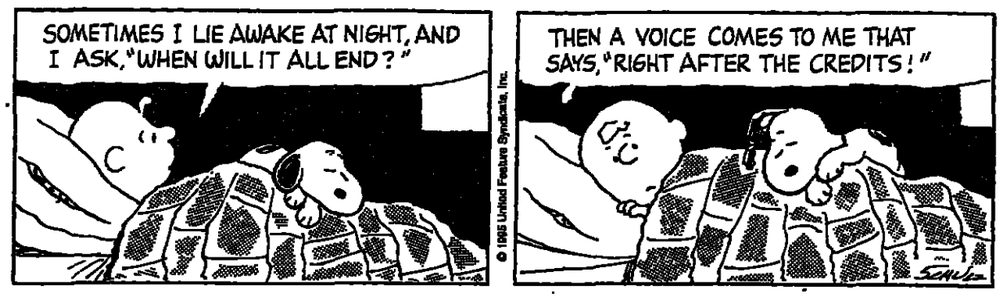
DOWN
1 Scrape harshly
2 Numerical prefix
3 Two-wheeled carriage
4 Unvarying
5 Rio —
6 One of the Stans
7 Advantage
8 Stein contents
9 Goof
10 Merchant
11 Carillonneur
12 Rose lover
13 Pied Piper followers
21 Bit
22 Image
24 Currier and —
25 — facie
26 Radical
27 High body temperature
28 Sheltered
29 Lead/tin alloy
30 Israeli statesman
31 Sea near the Caspian
32 Sharpen
35 Spelunking site
36 Estrange
38 Irani coin
39 Desert
41 Travolta film
42 Infuriate
44 Hit, biblically
45 Primrose, for one
46 Medicinal plant
47 Half: pref.
48 Atop
49 — Friday
50 Cheese type
51 Beams
53 — Aviv

© 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

S	P	E	D			A	D	I	T		M	E	L	T
C	A	R	O	L		D	I	S	H		A	R	E	A
A	T	O	N	E		O	S	L	O		O	R	Y	X
M	I	D	S	H	I	P	M	A	N			A	T	E
P	O	E		A	N	T	I		G	U	N	N	E	R
			U	R	N		S	A	S	S	E	D		
R	A	S	P		E	A	S	T		M	A	B	E	L
C	H	O	K	E	R	S		L	A	C	T	O	S	E
S	A	B	E	R		S	H	I	M		E	Y	E	D
		S	E	L	E	N	E		E	R	R			
S	N	I	P	E	R		A	R	N	O		A	B	E
H	A	S			S	A	L	E	S	W	O	M	A	N
A	N	T	E		A	L	E	S		A	V	A	S	T
K	N	E	W		T	O	R	E		N	I	N	E	R
E	Y	R	E		Z	E	S	T			D	A	L	Y

Peanuts



Andy Cap

Mutt'n'Jeff

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Islamists to enter insurance business

☆☆ ISLAMISTS have submitted applications to register two Islamic insurance companies in addition to nine other companies seeking insurance licences. Founders of the two Islamic companies include the Islamic Bank and many personalities some of whom are: Ishaq Al Farhan, Abdul Latif Arabiyyat, Abdul Latif Subeihi, Raef Najm, Kamel Al Sharif and Ali Al Hawamdeh. The two insurance companies, to be known as the Islamic Insurance and the Jordanian Islamic Insurance, mark the first time that the Islamic Bank and other Jordanian Islamists venture into the insurance business which has always been a controversial issue as to whether it is religiously permissible or not. Dr. Arabiyat indicated that there were many Islamic companies in the insurance business in some Arab and Islamic countries and such an issue was not questionable and could not have been undertaken had there not been a clear religious authorisation (fatwa) for it.

According to Dr. Hawamdeh, Islamic insurance is an issue of independent judgements. He sees it as a novelty arising from changing living conditions and the risks in various sorts of transportation. "As such, it has become necessary to deal with this sector (insurance) from on Islamic point of view taking the reasons into consideration," he explained. Accordindly, Dr. Hawamdeh pointed out, all founders, shareholders and clients are all jointly liable to compensate the party that suffers a loss. He added: "Relying on God always is a fact but God Almighty does not forbid that reasons be considered." He stressed that Islamic insurance does not operate under the banner of profit but under the headline of "joint solidarity." The financial results will be evaluated at the end of the year after accounting for Zakat (alms) and should there be any profit or loss, it would be borne by all parties — founders, shareholders and clients (Al Ra'i).

☆☆DETAILED STUDIES for a pipeline to carry water from Al Disi basin to Amman and for building three dams at Al Moujeb, Al Walah and Al Tannour on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea are now ready to be presented to the Amman economic summit, Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irshaidat has said. He added that the approximate cost for the pipeline was $500 million and for the three dams $250 million. The minister told journalists that projects for building diversion and storage dams on the Yarmouk River will not be presented to the summit as engineering studies on these projects have not yet been completed.

Dr. Irsheidat said the ministry would be submitting to the summit projects to develop the Dead Sea shore. The projects were divided into two categories: Those providing for the infrastructure of the area and those which include the investment schemes to be established. Other projects comprise the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal and a railway linking the Dead Sea area with Aqaba, the minister said.

Asked about his recent trip to Germany, Dr. Irsheidat said he met with European Investment Bank officials and discussed with them the financing of water projects including the Al Kafrain Dam, and improving the King Abdullah Canal. Discussions also covered the bank's participation in raising the efficiency of waste-water treatment plants and financing the Adasiyyeh-Deir Alla water pipeline estimated to cost $60 million. The minister said the bank officials proposed the idea of financing a large waste-water treatment plant in the Amman area estimated to cost $200 million (Al Aswaq + Al Ra'i).

'Turning reconciliation into reconstruction'

DUBAI (Agencies) — Business rather than politics will top the agenda at the Middle East/North Africa economic summit in Jordan next month, World Economic Forum executive board member Frederic Sicre has said.

"We want a very business-driven agenda in Amman," Mr. Sicre said, adding that the Geneva-based organisation would do its best to avoid a repeat of last November's politics-dominated summit in Casablanca.

That meeting brought together for the first time Arab and Israeli political and business leaders.

"We are not trying to force the peace process... economic bridges can be built faster than political ones," he told a meeting of the American Business Council in Dubai.

Asked to give the likely theme of the summit, he said: "Turning reconciliation into reconstruction."

Mr. Sicre said Iran and Iraq would not take part in the meeting, cosponsored by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

He said business and governments would present to the summit details of a number of multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects planned in the region.

"So far the projects we know that will be presented are the Jordan Rift Valley development plan, the Aqaba Airport servicing Jordan and Israel and the development plan for west Gaza," he said, adding "My job in the United Arab Emirates is to encourage the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) to do the same."

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.

He said a common misconception was that the summit would act to "legitimise the establishment of a ($5 billion) Middle East development bank. This is not even on the agenda. We are not pushing this subject forward."

The United States was in favour of such a bank, while the European Union was against it, he said.

Other issues likely to be discussed at the summit, which is expected to be attended by around 1,000 business and political leaders, were the creation of a regional business council and regional tourism council.

Mr. Sicre said he hoped the forum's next meeting in 1996 would be held in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Joan Spero in occupied Jerusalem: "The Amman summit is tied closely to the Middle East peace process. In our view you can't separate peace and security from the economic issues of the region."

Ms. Spero, who is in the region in preparation for the Amman summit, told members of the Israeli Chamber of Commerce that "peace and security are essential for the economic development in the region. Peace cannot last without concrete benefits for the people of the region — benefits that we think are only going to be possible through increased entrepreneurship, trade, industrial development, as well as regional cooperation." She added, "we think that the Amman summit can serve as an impetus for change in the region, in the economics of the region... and will provide the opportunities, and we hope the incentives to start and to energise this process."

U.S. Ambassador in Israel Martin Indyk stressed the opportunities for doing business in Israel "given the amazing growth that has taken place here, and the large scale infrastructure projects that are going on." Mr. Indyk noted that during his recent trip to the U.S. as part of the five ambassadors tour — 95, the message was the same as the message at the Amman summit: "That the Middle East is a region... open for business... and American corporations should look at Israel as a place to do business."

Global foreign exchange turnover tops $3 trillion a day

LONDON (R) — Trading on the world's foreign-exchange markets has ballooned in the past few years and now tops a trillion dollars per day, the latest survey by central banks showed Tuesday.

London retained the top position as the world's leading foreign exchange centre with New York second and Tokyo still third. Central banks across the world made their foreign exchange findings available for a tri-yearly survey of foreign exchange activity carried out by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Recent years have seen a big rise in speculative activity on foreign exchange markets and has also witnessed the rise of the so-called hedge funds such as the Quantum Fund run by Hungarian-born financier George Soros.

Mr. Soros was said to have made a billion dollars by speculating against the pound during the sterling crisis in 1992 but the Bank of England said the rise in foreign exchange activity did not indicate an increase in speculative activity.

"I don't believe there's anything here that you can draw on to reach any conclusion as to whether any of this reflects a heightened level of speculative activity," Bank of England director Ian Plenoerleith told reporters when the British central bank published its findings.

Around 25 central banks are taking part in the survey and the BIS will produce an analysis of the size of the global foreign exchange market early next year.

The survey was carried out during April so the Tokyo turnover figures may be distorted by the huge intervention by the Bank of Japan when it was trying in vain to rein in the soaring yen.

On a net basis, with data adjusted for double counting, London stood out with a 60 per cent leap in turnover to $464 billion with New York second, up 46 per cent to $244 billion.

Tokyo hung on to third place despite some speculation that Singapore would nose ahead this time. Tokyo saw volume rise 34.3 per cent to $105.4 million with Singapore up 43.2 per cent to $161.4 million.

The previous survey from 1992 estimated global net turnover at some $880 billion every business day in April of that year, a 42 per cent rise from the $620 billion in April 1989.

Others major centres reporting Tuesday included, Switzerland, with turnover up 30 per cent, Hong Kong, up almost 50 per cent, Germany, up 40 per cent, and Canada up 36 per cent.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 19/9/95	Tokyo Close Date 20/9/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5455	1.5468**
Deutsche Mark	1.4889	1.4834
Swiss Franc	1.2039	1.1200**
French Franc	5.1150	5.0985**
Japanese Yen	104.45	103.79
European Currency Unit	1.2583	1.2840**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 20/9/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56
Sterling Pound	6.62	6.62	6.57	6.57
Deutsche Mark	3.87	3.84	3.84	3.87
Swiss Franc	2.68	2.62	2.56	2.56
French Franc	5.50	5.56	5.56	5.56
Japanese Yen	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.37
European Currency Unit	5.40	5.38	5.38	5.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 20/9/1995

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	384.95	7.50	Silver	5.49	0.120

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/9/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7150	0.7170
Sterling Pound	1.1062	1.1117
Deutsche Mark	0.4821	0.4845
Swiss Franc	0.5957	0.5987
French Franc	0.1404	0.1411
Japanese Yen*	0.6894	0.6928
Dutch Guilder	0.4301	0.4323
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	******	*****

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 20/9/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8800	1.8930
Lebanese Lira*	0.043385	0.044535
Saudi Riyal	0.1903	0.1919
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2950	2.3355
Qatari Riyal	0.1951	0.1964
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.8460	1.8580
UAE Dirham	0.1941	0.1950
Greek Drachma*	0.2865	0.3155
Cypriot Pound	1.5015	1.5875

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3598/08	Canadian dollar
	1.4836/46	Deutschemarks
	1.6616/26	Dutch guilders
	1.2018/28	Swiss francs
	30.51/55	Belgian francs
	5.1013/63	French francs
	1610.2/1.2	Italian lire
	103.77/87	Japanese yen
	7.0690/90	Swedish crowns
	6.4780/30	Norwegian crowns
	5.7420/70	Danish crowns
One Sterling	$1.5460/70	
One ounce of gold	$384.90/385.20	

UAE sets up pro-offset deal

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has approved the creation of its first shipbuilding venture in a pre-offset military deal involving Newport News Shipbuilding company of the United States.

The Abu Dhabi Shipbuilding Company (ADSC) was officially established under a decree issued by the emirate's crown prince, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Zyed Al Nahayan, and published in the offiical gazette.

The venture would be jointly owned by Newport News and private investors from the UAE and other countries and is located just outside Abu Dhabi city.

It would be the UAE's first major shipbuilding venture as the existing shipyard in Abu Dhabi produces only dhows, the traditional Arabian wooden boats. The drydocks in the UAE emirate of Dubai, one of the biggest shipyards in the Asia, is only involved in repair and maintenance of vessels.

Newport News, one of the biggest ship builders in the world, had offered the project in the hope it would be awarded a contract to supply the UAE navy with frigates as part of the Gulf country's plans to bolster its army.

Military sources at an international defence show held in Abu Dhabi early this year said the UAE had ordered between two and four frigates at a cost of more than $1 billion. Companies from the U.S., Britain, France, Netherlands and Germany are competing for the deal.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 20/09/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK Plc	520	118705	227.250	228.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	325	1455	4.480	4.480
BANK OF JORDAN	3394	11606	3.420	3.420
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	750	1826	2.450	2.430
THE HOUSING BANK	1000	5500	5.500	5.500
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	363	989	2.730	2.740
JORDAN GULF BANK	188201	190035	.980	1.030
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	4206	15686	3.730	3.730
BUSINESS BANK	1000	3650	3.700	3.650
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	5855	22632	3.810	3.830
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGS&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	200	672	3.430	3.360
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	50700	45999	.910	.920
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	5750	8919	1.630	1.550
BANKS SECTOR	262264	427671	INDEX NUMBER: 185.05 CHANGE : +0.47%	
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	1000	4100	4.100	4.100
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	4050	10952	2.700	2.700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	100	245	2.500	2.450
INSURANCE SECTOR	5150	15297	INDEX NUMBER: 133.43 CHANGE : -0.21%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	11470	18816	1.640	1.640
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	730	4081	5.550	5.600
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	250	678	2.750	2.710
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	3850	7851	2.050	2.020
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	23050	24999	1.050	1.080
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	4000	4801	1.190	1.200
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	9050	20907	2.250	2.300
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	282	881	3.130	3.130
ZARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	2250	3015	1.340	1.340
SERVICES SECTOR	54932	86027	INDEX NUMBER: 126.47 CHANGE : +0.21%	
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	2865	10405	3.630	3.640
THE ARAB POTASH	200	982	4.900	4.910
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	579	5477	9.470	9.470
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	546	1743	3.180	3.200
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	750	5525	7.300	7.350
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	9312	46389	5.010	4.990
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1050	6255	5.970	5.970
JORDAN DAIRY	487	1169	2.400	2.400
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1400	3506	2.510	2.500
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	200	2750	13.800	13.750
SPINNING & WEAVING	1600	2960	1.850	1.850
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1736	12848	7.400	7.400
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	2050	11009	5.350	5.370
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	199974	127591	.620	.650
GENERAL INVESTMENT	200	520	2.600	2.600
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	3750	5326	1.400	1.430
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2300	5290	2.350	2.300
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	11350	12173	1.050	1.070
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	470	1.890	1.880
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	10800	12038	1.120	1.110
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	7000	9715	1.400	1.400
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	912	1949	2.150	2.130
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1050	3323	3.160	3.170
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	7600	15128	1.980	2.000
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	4800	8065	1.680	1.670
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	46100	64229	1.380	1.400
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGATIABLE OIL INDUSTRI	7337	14771	2.050	2.020
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	326198	391603	INDEX NUMBER: 125.18 CHANGE : +0.12%	
GRAND TOTAL	648544	920598	INDEX NUMBER: 155.47 CHANGE : +0.33%	

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 235209
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 214973

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Furnished Apartment For Rent
In Um Uthaina, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, ground floor, telephone.
Other apartments and villas
Furnished/unfurnished for rent or sale
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605, 810609, 810520

A SECURE Hotel Sweifiyeh
Turino
Flat.O.TEL
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel
FLAT .O. TEL
الاجنحة الفندقية المكيفة
الملوكية بمستوى عالمي جديد!
863944 - 816690

Cheers
Cafe'
Hamburgers + Pizzas
ELITE CAFE'
Sweifiyeh
816690
At Turino

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-
• JUMBO photo size 30% larger
• Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweifieh tel: 823891

SANABEL
REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas & Appartments in Amman
for further details please call
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

EURO DOLLAR
RENT A CAR
Make Car Rental Simple
Shmeisani
Tel: 693399

CROWN HOTEL
OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL
• TENNIS COURT
• HEALTH CLUB
• SAUNA & JACUZZI
TEL 758180
SALES OFFICE 695043 - 690157
RADIO & TV STATION RD.

Escape Pub
NOUROZ Restaurant
Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle
Tel: 642830
WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE INTERCONTINENTAL
COCKTAILS, SNACKS & LIVE MUSIC

SZECHWAN GARDENS
CHINESE RESTAURANT
Typical Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 - 3:30 & 6:00 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shat Al-Arab Street
Um Uthainah Commercial Centre
Tel.: 861174
Once Tasted Always Loved

MING-SHING
Chinese Restaurant
The Best Cooking,
Best Service,
Best Atmosphere in Amman
Deir Ghbar - American Embassy Str. near Baytuna Housing Estate
Open from:
12 noon - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - 11:30 p.m.

AVIS
RENTACAR
King Abdullah Gardens
Tel. 699420 - 816499

For Rent
Deluxe Furnished and Unfurnished Villas apartments and office Space To Suit all Budgets
681113 688816
For Rent - For Rent

Your Address in Amman
CRYSTAL
Quality Furnished Suites
One and Two Bedrooms
Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay
5th Circle - 692672

Piano Bar Restaurant
Turino
YES U CAN TURINO ! !
Exclusive yet affordable
With Seif & Nawfal
CUISINE ITALO - MED
Sweifiyeh 863944

VILLA D'ANGELO
RISTORANTE ITALIANO
AUTHENTIC ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Jabal Amman
Tel 638212
Air-conditioned Lounge and Outside Terrace

Kasparov, Anand draw again

NEW YORK (AP) — The sixth game of the Professional Chess Association World Championship between Gary Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand ended in a sudden draw Tuesday with the pieces in a complex, uneven position and either player able to win.

After six games, all drawn, the score in the match is tied 3-3.

While chess experts argued over which player had the advantage. Kasparov, the title holder, played his 28th move and offered a draw, which was accepted quickly.

After the game, both players stayed inside the specially constructed soundproof booth and discussed the match for about five minutes.

"We both basically agreed with each other we didn't have a clue what was going on," Anand said.

In the final position, Kasparov, playing white, was ahead a rook for a knight and a pawn.

Kasparov's strategy was to try to push a phalanx of pawns up the centre of the board to create a queen by reaching the opponent's back rank. Anand tried a similar attack, called a pawn steamroller, but on the queen's side.

"It's very messy," Anand said. "If I try to win too much, I could lose."

While the quiet series of draws may be disappointing spectators, experts were impressed by Anand's ability to avoid losing against the world champion.

"Vishy has the initiative," said former U.S. Champion Max Dlugy. "He's holding his own and he's the only one who's had a chance to win a game."

Experts say Anand missed a chance to rip open Kasparov's defenses and checkmate his opponent in the third game last Thursday.

On Tuesday, for the first time in the contest, Kasparov pushed his "E" pawn — the one in front of the king — forward two squares on the first move, a move widely regarded as the most aggressive opener in chess.

World chess challenger Vishy Anand of India writes down a move in his match against Russia's Garry Kasparov in New York (AFP photo)

With both competitors playing rapidly, play moved into a Ruy Lopez opening, named after the 16th-century Spanish priest who invented it.

The game followed previously known paths until Anand aggressively castled with his king onto the queen's side. Castling, in which the player can jump his king two squares to hide it on the side of the board, is allowed only once a game per player.

An 18th move mistake forced the challenger to sacrifice a rook for a knight, but Anand was eventually able to gain compensation by thrusting forward with his pawns on the queens side.

Asked if the sudden end to the game was disappointing to the hundreds of fans watching on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center, Anand replied; "I think the spectators had enough fun. It was a tense moment. I only had half an hour left."

Each player is allowed only two hours for the first 40 moves.

The seventh game will take place Thursday, with Anand playing white.

The first player to score 10.5 points in the 20 games wins the tournament. A win is worth one point; a draw nets a half-point. In the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov retains the title he won in 1985. The winner $1 million; the loser $500,000.

Britain to bar hooligans from Euro '96

LONDON (R) — Britain said on Tuesday it planned to use immigration powers for the first time in living memory to stop overseas soccer hooligans disrupting the 1996 European Championships in England.

A spokesman for the Home Office (interior ministry) said it would co-ordinate with the soccer unit at Britain's national criminal intelligence service to intercept foreign hooligans at British ports and airports.

Under existing immigration laws, Britain has the right to refuse entry to anyone whose presence "s not conducive to the public good," the spokesman said.

In living memory, we've not used these regulations to stop hooligans coming in. But we will use them if we have to," he said.

English hooligans have disrupted the last two European championships, in Germany in 1988 and in Sweden in 1992, clashing with foreign rivals.

Last February, a friendly international in Dublin against Ireland was abandoned after English supporters rioted.

Concern over another bout of hooliganism at an England friendly against Norway in Oslo on October 11 has led Norway to introduce new regulations which allow police to bar entry to anyone with a criminal record, British soccer sources said.

They said Norwegian police can refuse entry to anyone who has committed a crime within the past five years which would merit a three-month sentence in Norway.

A Football Association spokeswoman said English soccer officials would explore every avenue to prevent a repeat of the Dublin riot.

"We are obviously taking every possible precaution and talking to all relevant authorities," she said.

'London to bid for 2008 Olympics'

LONDON (AFP) — London is to make a bid to host the 2008 Olympics, with the British Olympic Association (BOA) agreeing to bypass the 2004 games, The Guardian newspaper reported Wednesday.

The paper said the BOA had already reached a consensus that London is the only British city with any chance of success.

I added that the BOA was aiming for 2008 so that a new national stadium can be built for when the International Olympic Committee sends assessors to check the bids.

Recent bids by Manchester and Birmingham to host the games failed.

The Iraqi team celebrates after beating Hungary 2-0 in the final of the Mardeca soccer event in Kuala Lumpur · Malaysia last month (AFP photo)

Qatar take on Iraq in Olympic qualifier Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Qatari Olympic soccer team host their Iraqi counterparts in Doha Friday in the second match of the Asian Group 8 Olympic qualifier.

The Qatari team will be hoping to continue their successful debut after defeating Jordan 2-1 in Amman last Friday.

While Qatar did not appear in a much superior form in Amman, their team nevertheless cannot be underestimated as they had training camps in Europe and have prepared well.

Their opponents however are a powerhouse in Arab soccer.

After missing out four years from international competitions following the Gulf War, the Iraqi team did exceptionally well against Asian and European teams in an international tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last month where they beat the Hungarian team to win the title.

Iraq recently hosted Al Wihdat in the Asian Champions Cup. They will next be hosting the Qatari and Jordanian teams in Baghdad for the second leg of the qualifiers.

Schedule of matches

Date		Venue
Friday 22/9	Qatar vs. Iraq	Doha
Friday 29/9	Jordan vs. Iraq	Amman
Friday 6/10	Qatar vs. Jordan	Doha
Friday 13/10	Iraq vs. Qatar	Baghdad
Friday 20/10	Iraq vs. Jordan	Baghdad

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Void ♡A Q J 10 9 5 4 ◇Void ♣A Q J 10 6 3
The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♡	4♠	Dbl	Pass
?			

What action do you take?

Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K Q 9 8 3 ♡8 5 ◇A 7 3 ♣K 10 2
The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4◇	Pass
4♠	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠9 8 5 3 ♡7 6 3 ◇A K 8 5 2 ♣3
The bidding has proceeded:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	2♡	2♠	?

What action do you take?

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A K 4 ♡9 3 ◇J 6 5 ♣Q J 8 5 2
The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2◇	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q 7 6 ♡9 3 ◇K Q 10 ♣A 10 9 5 5
The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♡	2◇	?	

What action do you take?

Q. 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 5 ♡Q J 7 6 2 ◇Q 10 3 ♣J 8 3
The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♣	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

Jordan Times Tel. 667171

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Invitation for Bids
Wastewater Collection and Treatment Systems in the Greater Irbid Area
Wadi Arab Wastewater Treatment Plant
Contract No. 174/95/Central

1. The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing/government Tenders Directorate, invites experienced German contractors, who have implemented several wastewater treatment plants of similar size in the last 5 years, and local contractors, who have been pre-qualified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as a First Grade in all of the following fields: Treatment plans, Water and Sewerage, Electro-Mechanics, Roads and Buildings, alone or in a joint venture to submit their offers for the construction of Wadi Arab Wastewater Treatment Plant. German contractors are strongly encouraged to joint venture or associate with the above grade local contractors.
2. The project is partially financed by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KFW). The project consists of the construction of a wastewater treatment plant (designed capacity: Population of = 202,000, Extended Aeration System) including all civil, mechanical and electrical works.
3. Tender documents are available and may be examined and purchased from the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Amman P.O. Box 1220, Tel (+)962 6 606 757, Fax (+)962 6 606 751.
4/ The non-refundable fee for each set of tender documents will be JD 2,000.
5. The latest date for the purchase of tender documents by the eligible bidders is October 28, 1995.
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Water Authority's main office in Amman at 900 hours, Jordan local time, on Wednesday, Octobr 30, 1995.
7. Bids are due not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday, November 28, 1995, to the office of the Government Tenders Directorate.
8. Bids will be publicly opened at 1400 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday, November 28, 1995, in the office of the Government Tenders Directorate.

Eng. Naser Madadha
Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
General Director/Government Tenders Directorate

Apartment in Abdoun
Ground floor ,2-3 bedrooms ,sitting and dining rooms ,kitchen and a bathroom Dr.Mahmoud Juma' House , behind Abdoun Pharmacy .
Tel.624824,819850.

WANTED
an English school in Kuwait is in need of :
1- Male or female head teacher with at least 10 years experience
2-English or American women teachers for kindergarten, elementary and preparatory with at least two years experience
3-female co-ordinator with 2 to 5 years experience.
all of the candidates should have a university degree
please call:675609 Ahlam

FULLY FURNISHED ROOF APARTMENT FOR RENT
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living/dining, big modern kitchen, all elec. equip., new furniture.
Tel. water, elec. central heating, terrace, water well 60m3 located between 4th & 5th circles facing Abdoun.
For further information pls. call: 677788 & or 654071

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN THE GULF REGION

WE HAVE BEEN COMMISSIONED BY OUR CLIENT IN THE GULF TO RECRUIT SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

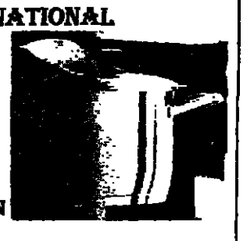
1. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
- Proven record of success with 12 to 15 years experience managing the delivery of information technology services, preferably within a retail banking environment.
Proven expertise in:
- Application Development
- IT Operations
- Service Management Delivery
- Network Management
- Quality Assurance
- Degree in Computer Science or related field.
- Working knowledge of LAN, WAN and Client Server technologies in UNIX, OS/2 and Windows NT software environments.
- Working knowledge of Hewlett Packard UNIX, and IBM PC compatible hardware environments.
- Knowledge of C++, Kindle Systems banking applications, and delivery of electronic banking services strongly preferred.

2. IT OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Eight to ten years experience in managing IT operations, preferably in a retail banking environment.
- Solid working knowledge of UNIX and IBM PC compatible hardware environments within a NOVELL LAN setting.
- Demonstrated expertise providing operational support for Kindle banking systems applications highly preferred.
- Degree in Computer Science or related field.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES SHOULD SEND THEIR CV TO:

K. H. TUQAN
P.O. BOX 5552
AMMAN 11183, JORDAN

HEALTH MISSION BY ZEPTER INTERNATIONAL



LADIES TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN AMMAN
SPONZORED BY zepter INTERNATIONAL

We are pleased to announce that in corporation with Y W C A , Tennis Club, Jabal Amman 3rd Circle, ZEPTER INTERNATIONAL is sponsoring as follows :

Ladies' Doubles matches September 24 - 28, 1995.

Mixed Doubles matches - a whole day event on September 29,1995.

For the winners of the tournament interesting and valuable prizes are provided by ZEPTER INTERNATIONAL.

In addition to ZEPTER Health Mission in Jordan, we have a great pleasure to introduce you to the ZEPTER WORLD by cooking in front of you in ZEPTER cookware, by ZEPTER health method, on Friday, September 29, 1995. at the premises Y W C A club, at 12 o'clock (noon).

Unite sport life with healthy nourishment in order to ensure healthy and beautiful future !

For further information you may contact Y W C A, phone no.641793.

CINEMA TEL: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Isabelle Adjani in
La Reine Margot
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL: 699238
PLAZA
Bruce Willis in
Die Hard III
Shows at 12:30,3:30,8:30 and 10:30
Children's movie
Lion King
Every Thursday and Friday
Shows at 12:30 p.m.

CINEMA TEL: 677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:45
CONCORD "2"
Police Academy
"Mission to Moscow"
Shows: 4, 6, 8, 10

AMMOUN THEATRE
TEL: 618274 - 618275
MUSA HIJAZIN
"Sumaa'"
IN
Hi Citizen
daily at 8,30 pm
written & directed by
Mohammed Shawaqfeh
****

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
TEL: 675571
performances will seize starting of today until further notice

Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155
AHLAN THEATRE
presents
(Ahlan Tatbee')
Welcome Normalisation
Shows start at 8:30 p.m.
For reservation please ca tel. 625155 Amman

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Government intervenes in Weah row

MONROVIA, (AFP) — A row involving Liberian football star George Weah over who owns a plot of land has sparked the intervention of the country's new transitional government. Youth and Sports Minister Francois Massaquoi said Wednesday the government was holding talks with Mohammed Sawane to get the issue settled out of court. Sawane claims his mother holds the original deed for a plot of land in Monrovia's Sinkor suburb on which AC Milan star Weah is building a house.

Maradona union denied FIFA recognition

PORTO (AFP) — FIFA will not officially recognise the International Professional Footballers Association set up Monday by Diego Maradona and other stars, the football governing body's secretary general Sepp, Blatter said here on Wednesday. "They are free to form associations like all employees and to discuss work problems, but they must address themselves to their employers, that is to say their clubs and national associations," said Blatter.

England may lose UEFA Cup place

LONDON (AFP) — English clubs face losing a UEFA Cup place next season after a decision by European football's ruling body on Tuesday to launch an inquiry into this summer's Inter-Toto Cup shambles. Football Association chief executive Graham Kelly and chairman Sir Bert Millichip flew to a meeting in Portugal hoping to hear that England had been granted an additional place in the UEFA Cup for the second succesive season because of the nation's Fair Play record. But they returned under threat that there could be one less English side granted a UEFA Cup place next season. It is understood that some European officials are less than happy with events surrounding the half-hearted involvement of Sheffield Wednesday, Tottenham and Wimbledon in their close-season competition. A statement from UEFA read: "Reviewing the first edition of the UEFA Intertoto Cup, the executive committee decided to ask the control and disciplinary committee, as well as the Fair Play and club competitions committee, to deal with the conduct of English clubs."

Charltons mourn England trainer

LONDON (AFP) — Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton and his brother Bobby were among the mourners who attended the funeral of former England trainer Harold Shepherdson on Tuesday. Shepherdson, who died of a heart attack aged 76, was involved with England for a record 171 internationals and four World Cups including Sir Alf Ramsey's famous 1966 triumph which featured the Charltons. Before becoming a trainer, Shepherdson played for his home town club Middlesbrough and was awarded the MBE in 1969 for his services to football. The Football Association were represented at his funeral by former England full-back Jimmy Armfield.

Maradona blasts absent stars

ISTANBUL (R) — Diego Maradona blasted fellow soccer celebrities for failing to turn up at an all-stars benefit match in Turkey for Bosnian children. "I won't forgive them for not appearing at such a helpful event when they said they would," Anatolian news agency quoted Maradona as saying after Tuesday night's game in Istanbul. "It's a disgrace for the footballing family, I'm ashamed,' said Maradona who didnot play in the game between A world X1 and a Turkish X1 because of his continuing suspension for failing a dope test at the 1994 World Cup finals. Organisers had said they were expecting a host of stars including Brazil's Beseto, Roberto Baggio and Liberian striker George Weah of AC Milan, Barcelona's Jose Maria Bakero, and Real Madrid's Michael Laudrup. Maradona made a speech on the pitch and presented medals to the teams. The world side, made up mostly of Spanish league players and foreigners playing in Turkey, lost 4-1.

European transfer system thrown into doubt

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — European football's multi-million dollar transfer system and restrictions on the number of foreign players per club were in tatters here on Wednesday after a benchmark legal finding.

The German advocate general of the European Court of Justice, Carl Otto Tenz, unequivocally concluded that both the current system, under which clubs can buy and sell players, and rules which restrict the number of foreign players per club contradict the Treaty of Rome.

His 258 page submission to the European Court of Justice has to be ratified by the court's 15 judges and a decision is expected by the end of the year.

However, cases in which the advocate general's opinion are over turned are extremely rare.

Jean-Marc Bosman, who has fought a five-year campaign to have European football's dollar transfer system declared illegal, described the summing up of his case as "a total victory."

Lenz said Article 48 of the Treaty is to be interpreted as prohibiting:

1. A football club from being able to demand and receive payment of a sum of money when one of its players, whose contract has expired, is engaged by another club.

2. The restriction of players, who are members of another national association, from club competitions organised by national and international associations.

That is the European Football Union (UEFA) rule which prevents clubs from using more than three foreigners and two assimilated players in European competitions.

Lenz also overturned the transfer system on the basis of Article 85 of the Treaty which governs free competition within the European Union market.

UEFA accepts that its rules breach the principle of freedom of movement enshrined in the Treaty of Rome but argues they are necessary to prevent the game being permanently dominated by a cartel of super-rich clubs.

A ruling in favour of the 31-year-old Bosman effectively leaves players free to negotiate their own transfers and entitles them to the receipts of their moves.

Clubs would be entitled to received compensation if a player moved before his contract expired but otherwise they would receive nothing.

At a stroke, small clubs which have thrived by nurturing young players and then selling them, will be deprived of their financial lifeblood.

Big clubs too could be affected. Although a ruling in favour of Bosman makes it easier for them to use their financial muscle to spoon off the best talent available, it will also mean that they can no longer count players as assets, wiping millions of dollars off their asset sheets overnight.

Jean-Louis Dupont, Bosman's lawyer, yesterday (Tuesday) rejected suggestions that a ruling in favour of his client need necessarily promote chaos in the game.

"The transfer system and the foreigners' rule are two sides of the same coin. They are not about the interests of players, they are about the interests of the clubs," he said.

Bosman had not argued that the transfer system should be dismantled overnight.

He wanted the principle to be accepted and believed an institition with the power of the European Court would be capable of working out a transitional system that would give the game time to adapt to the rules which apply in every other labour market.

Bosman's campaign to have the rules changed began in 1990 when a planned transfer from RFC liege to the French club Dunkirk fell through.

Liege reacted by refusing to release the midfielder while offering him a new deal at only a quarter of his previous salary.

Bosman refused and took the issue to the Belgian courts. His case was upheld but Bosman, regarded as one of the most technically gifted players in the country, found himself snubbed throughout Belgium.

Unable to resume his career he decided to attack the European rules which he held responsible for the failure of his move in Dunkirk.

Gordon Taylor, president of the international federation of professional footballers' associations, paid tribute to Bosman and his lawyers for their determination and resilience in pursuing the case over five years.

"It proves sport cannot be above the law," added Taylor, who is also chief executive of the English players' union.

"Hopefully, never again will a footballer be denied his rights to move to a club of his choice when his contract expires."

These rights were important, Taylor said, because of the precarious nature of footballers' careers.

"What is best for a star player may not be best for all members of a union. England has 92 clubs and 4,000 members. In a situation where there is literal freedoms of contract, unless the richer clubs are prepared to pool resources there could be a contraction of clubs and jobs," he said.

He sighted the example of American football in the U.S. where player-power had resulted in a country four times the size of Britain having only a quarter of the number of clubs.

Taylor said Bosman's case had arisen because of the antiquated Belgian system which allowed RC Liege to cut Bosman's salary while refusing to release him.

However, Dupont disputed this.

"It is not only the Belgian system," he said. "This problem arose under an international transfer under UEFA rules.

"Lenz makes clear that the system clearly contradicts Article 85 (competition rules). This Article applies every bit as much to a transfer between Liverpool and Manschester as it does to any other transfer within the European Union," he said.

Taylor said football would need to study carefully the consequences of the literal abolition of the transfer system.

"The clarity of the judgement means the governing bodies in Football at European and national level will have to give attention to what could be major upheavals in the present organisation of football," he said.

"We don't wish to see clubs scrapping their youth training schemes."

Taylor also expressed concern about the implications of the foreigners' ruling for European competitions, where non-European Union teams would be playing under different rules from those governed by the Treaty of Rome.

Dupont said he hoped for a definitive judgement by the beginning of next year at the latest.

The advocate-general's hefty report made only one slight exception in its ruling by recommending a system of compensation for clubs that trained and developed young players.

Bosman, who described the decision as a "total victory," said his five-year battle had been "very difficult morally and financially."

"It's been a long fight but today we have arrived at a very important stage and I hope this decision will be welcomed by footballers across Europe," he said.

Bosman's claim for 30 million Belgian francs (one million dollars) in compensation will go back to an appeal court in Liege if the European Court upholds its advocate-general's finding.

Bosman was also hoping that international stars, including Diego Maradona, would appear in a benefit match to raise funds to recompense him for a career he admits is now virtually over.

Dominique Wilkins impressive in Greece

ATHENS (AP) — In his first public appearance Tuesday night in a pre-season game with his new team, Panathinaikos Athens, former Boston Celtics player Dominique Wilkins appeared to need more time to meet the club's requirements.

Panathinaikos beat Partizan Belgrade 75-73 in overtime (65-65) in a pre-season game. But the Athens club failed to live up to its potential despite their victory before 8,000 fans at the brand new 20,000-seat stadium at the Olympic complex near the capital.

The daily "Sports Time" Wednesday described the 2.03-metre (6-foot-8) Wilkins as "sluggish and average" particularly in the 2nd half when he appeared tired. "Occasionally he showed his excellent talent," the paper added.

The 35-year-old player signed a two-year contract with Panathinaikos for $7 million. The contract is considered the richest one for a player outside the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Wilkins, along with his 2.16-metre (7-foot-1) Croatian teammate, Stojan Vrancovic, were the game's top scorers with 19 points each.

Wilkins had 4/6 foul shots, 3/15 two-pointers, 3/6 three-pointers, gained seven rebounds and made six mistakes.

Last season Panathinaikos finished second behind Olympiakos Piraeus in the Greek Premier League. With the addition of Wilkins, the Athens club has set its sights on the Greek and European championships.

The Greek Championship starts Sept. 30 and Panathinaikos plays its first game for the European Championship Sept. 28 against Latvia's Zalgiris Kaunas away.

India undaunted by Ivanisevic in Davis Cup

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Underdogs India are not overawed by Goran Ivanisevic's towering presence as they prepare to face Croatia in the Davis Cup world group play-off tie beginning here on Friday.

Few give the hosts a chance against the big-serving world number six, who is expected to play in both the singles and doubles in the three-day tie on grass courts at the National Sports Club of India.

But the unpredictable nature of Davis Cup play, combined with energy-sapping heat and humidity, and home support, leave Leander Paes and company optimistic about their chances.

"This is the toughest tie for our young team, but it's still 50-50," said the 124th-ranked Paes, whose Davis Cup exploits have made him a national hero at 22.

"No one gave us a chance against Switzerland and France in 1993, but we still made it to the semi-finals. Rankings mean little in Davis Cup."

Paes feels it is by no means a foregone conclusion that twice Wimbledon finalist Ivanisevic will beat him and India's second singles player Mahesh Bhupathy.

"Goran is a class apart, but he is known to be temperamental. We can get at him through his mind, crowd support and humidity, and perhaps upset his rhythm," Paes said.

"Goran could struggle playing three matches in this heat and we have a good chance against their likely second singles player Sasa Hirszon, ranked 369.

"Even if we give Goran two singles, we can make up in the remaining three matches. The doubles will obviously be important," Paes said.

A confident Ivanisevic, fully recovered from a sprained ankle that put him out in the first round of the U.S. Open, had a simple formula to beat the heat: "I'll keep the matches short."

Ivanisevic, a self-confessed Davis Cup addict, said he was determined to lead Croatia back into the elite 16-nation world group after losing to Germany in the first round in March.

"It's different playing for your country. You are pepped up. Normally you travel alone, but here you have four or five of your own to cheer you. It's a great feeling," he said.

"I do not underestimate the Indians, especially Paes. He is a very talented player. But I am confident we will win," he said.

ANZ Grindlays Bank

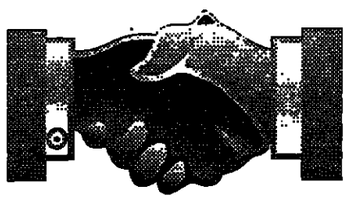
Welcomes to Jordan

Mr. Alister Maitland
Executive Director ANZ, Melbourne, and
Mrs. Maitland

and

Mr. Achut Bommakanti
Senior General Manager
ANZ Grindlays Bank, London, and
Mrs. Bommakanti

70 YEARS IN JORDAN



ANZ Grindlays Bank

celebrates 70 years of

Banking On Success

Israeli troops kill boy in Nablus, seal off Gaza

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli police shot dead a Palestinian teenager on Wednesday apparently after stones were thrown at their vehicle in the West Bank city of Nablus, Palestinians said.

They said Omar Ahmad Baker, 16, was hit by two bullets in the abdomen and died on arrival at Al Ittihad Hospital.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said she was checking the report.

Palestinians said Baker's grandmother who heard the news while visiting relatives in self-ruled Gaza, was trying to reach Nablus for the funeral but Israeli soldiers were preventing her from leaving the coastal area because of a military closure ahead of Jewish holidays.

Nablus was the scene of daily confrontations between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian youths during the Palestinian uprising which began in 1987 and tapered off after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) interim peace deal in 1993.

Meanwhile, Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip, barring thousands of Palestinians from reaching jobs in the Jewish state.

The army said the closure, imposed just after midnight, would be in place until further notice.

No reason was given for the closure, which came as it became clear that Israel and the PLO would not make a Sept. 21 deadline for signing an agreement to expand autonomy in the West Bank.

Musa Arafat, head of military intelligence in the PLO-run Gaza Strip, said Israeli officials had told him they expected attacks against Israelis because of the approaching Jewish holidays and impending agreement.

"They said they received information that Islamic Jihad is planning for a suicide attack," he said.

Islamic Jihad and the larger militant group Hamas have claimed responsibility for a series of suicide attacks against Israelis in their campaign against the Israel-PLO peace process.

But Mr. Arafat said Palestinian officials had no information about an Islamic Jihad attack, and called the closure an "exaggerated" response.

Freih Abu Medien, justice minister in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said the closure appeared to be an attempt to undermine the Israel-PLO talks.

"If they do it with Gaza while the negotiations are going on, they can do it in the West Bank after the negotiations," he said.

PLO Chief Yasser Arafat's spokesman, Marwan Kanafani, said the Palestinians would protest the closure.

The Palestinian commander of the main Erez border crossing, Colonel Radwan Abu Qumsan, warned that the closure would further damage the Gaza Strip economy, primarily dependent on day labour in Israel.

About 8,000 Palestinians from Gaza have permits to work in Israel. The number dropped from 12,000 after a recent suicide bombing in occupied Jerusalem, when Israel required workers to get new magnetic identification cards.

Israeli security forces on Wednesday detained the ailing mother of a Palestinian bomb-maker wanted for planning suicide bombings in Israel for Hamas, relatives said.

They said Aysheh Mahmoud Ayyash was detained from her home in the West Bank village of Rafat at dawn on Wednesday, apparently to pressure her son Yahya Ayyash, dubbed by Israel "The Engineer," to turn himself in.

Relatives said the woman suffers from diabetes and from a heart condition.

Ayyash is believed to be behind a series of carbombs that have killed scores of Israelis in the last two years.

Israel believes Ayyash, who has been on the run since 1993, is hiding in self-ruled Gaza.

Relatives say Israeli security forces regularly raid Rafat village and often detain Palestinians who have a similar name during routine checks at military checkpoints throughtout the West Bank.

Turkmen arrives with a message of assurance to Palestinian refugees

By Ghalia Alul

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen Wednesday dismissed fears that the agency will be dismantled in the near future, adding that UNRWA's mandate will be renewed for three years in 1996.

"There is no specific time to eliminate the services of UNRWA," Mr. Turkmen told journalists on the first of a three-day visit to the Kingdom.

Mr. Turkmen, who met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and discussed with him issues of mutual concern, also denied accusations that the agency has reduced the services it offers to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Turkmen's visit to the Kingdom comes at time when the agency's employees have threatened a general strike if UNRWA does not meet their demands for salary increases as well as better work conditions.

Mr. Turkmen said that budgetary constraints were the reason behind UNRWA's failure to grant salary rises to its employees in 1995, noting that its budget deficit for this year stands at $5-6 million.

But, he said, UNRWA promises to grant salary hikes to its employees next year.

"We are not decreasing our services," Mr. Turkmen said in response to a question. On the contrary, he said, the agency is increasing its services.

But if donor countries do not contribute to the agency's budget, he warned, UNRWA will be forced to reduce its services.

Mr. Turkmen said he expected the agency's budget for 1996 to reach $340 million but urged Arab countries to increase their contributions.

Responding to demands that UNRWA employees made during two sit-ins they organised this month, Mr. Turkmen said the agency's financial situation does not enable it to meet the employees' demands concerning end-of-service compensation and early retirement plans.

As for the losses the employees' saving fund incurred last year, Mr. Turkmen said the agency invests about 90 per cent of the savings in bonds and 10 per cent in equities.

Continued on page 7

Accused in Wadi Mujib case want trial by criminal court on attempted murder

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The attorneys of two Jordanians involved in the February 1994 attack on a French diplomat on Wednesday contested the State Security Court's jurisdiction to try the suspects and charged that their case should instead be tried at the criminal court.

Attorneys Saleh Armouti and Hikmat Rawashdeh told a packed court room that their clients should first be charged with attempted murder and they should be tried at the criminal court.

"Our defendants should first stand trial at the criminal court for attempted murder charges in addition to the other charges," Mr. Armouti said, adding that the attorneys had ample proof that the suspects did not shoot the French diplomat.

He also said that all charges should be tried at the same court and should not be separated.

Mr. Armouti charged that his suspects were interrogated under duress, and that they were questioned and confessed in front of intelligence agents rather than the state prosecuter general.

The state prosecutor general asked the court to postpone its session to allow him time to reply to the two attorneys. Judge Hafez Amin set Oct. 1 for the new session.

The two defendants, both 22, were arrested after a Feb. 14 incident in which a French diplomat was shot and wounded in the Wadi Mujeb area.

During the first court session the state prosecutor general did not include attempted murder charges against them, stating that it was not his speciality.

The formal charges against the two included "plotting to carry out extremist attacks, possessing illegal arms and explosives, and manufacturing hand-made explosives."

According to the charge sheet, the two suspects, a school messenger and a furniture shop assistant, made explosive devices and wanted to take over a tourist bus in southern Jordan, but were deterred by the presence of security guards around the vehicle.

The two then fled.

Shortly afterwards, they came across Gilles Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy, and his wife who had stopped their car at a scenic spot in Wadi Mujib. The suspects tried to force the couple to get into the car at gun point, the prosecution said.

Mr. Heine struggled with the two men. A police patrol noticed the quarrel and came to the rescue, the document said. The French diplomat was shot in the chest and foot after police and the attackers exchanged fire.

According to the document, the two allegedly started planning in 1994 to target tourists who visit Wadi Mujib.

U.N. has no proof of germ agents in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations has no proof that Iraq still has germ warfare agents but will need to verify all have been destroyed, a senior U.N. official said on Wednesday.

"We have no evidence that agents still exist in Iraq," Charles Duelfer, deputy executive chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), told Reuters at the end of his four-day visit to Baghdad.

He said but the U.N. would only declare Iraq clean of such agents when it verifies that all have been dismantled as claimed by Iraq.

Mr. Duelfer said earlier the verification that the weapons were scrapped was one of UNSCOM's major concerns and should take a great deal of time.

"We have began the process (of verification). It is a difficult process," Mr. Duelfer, a former American diplomat, said.

He said the Iraqi side identified for the U.N. locations where the materials were burned or destroyed.

The U.N. investigation, according to Mr. Duelfer, would include the taking of soil samples, interviews with concerned authorities and an analysis of related documents.

Iraq handed over to the United Nations on Tuesday more documents on its past germ warfare activities in an effort to have crippling trade sanctions lifted, but Mr. Duelfer said details were still lacking.

Mr. Duelfer arrived in Baghdad on Sunday. He said he made "some progress" and described his talks as "frank and constructive."

He said the magnitude and nature of Iraq's germ warfare programme was the cause of major concern in many countries in the world, particularly Iraq's neighbours.

Iraq made startling revelations about its weapons programmes last month, particularly about its biological weapons. It admitted for the first time to producing 200 biological warheads and additional agents beyond what was previously disclosed.

U.N. experts are analysing enormous amounts of documents — about 650,000 pages — provided by Iraq following the defection to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel who ran Iraq's military industries.

Mr. Duelfer said contacts with the defector would continue for both the verification of Iraqi data and bridging of existing gaps.

Turkey is cool to possible PKK truce

ANKARA (R) — Turkey on Wednesday played down a possible ceasefire offer by the rebel leader of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is fighting an 11-year separatist campaign in the southeast.

"I won't comment on any PKK announcement," Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu told a news briefing. "Suffice to say everyone knows our position. We want terror to end, and our security forces are working for that."

"At the same time, we are continuing to make all necessary initiatives in parliament for the development of democratic rights in our country," he said.

The Germany-based DEM Kurdish news agency on Tuesday quoted PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan as saying he was considering calling a ceasefire, similar to one called by the rebels in 1993.

"If the Turkish state does not come against us with the intention of destroying, we want to start a new ceasefire process," Mr. Ocalan said.

The PKK's unilateral ceasefire in 1993 held for nearly three months until the guerrillas killed 33 soldiers in a bus ambush after complaining Turkey had not reciprocated.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in the PKK's fight for Kurdish autonomy or independence in southeast Turkey.

Turkey, which has flatly rejected all previous calls for international mediation and a truce with "terrorists," has often said it is on the brink of defeating the PKK military.

Mahdi opposes violence as means to oust regime

CAIRO (R) — Former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, figurehead of opposition to the military government in Khartoum, was quoted on Wednesday as saying that violent opposition would be a dead end.

He said there had been some political relaxation in Sudan but further change was needed to allow freedom of expression.

Commenting for the first time on last week's student demonstrations in Khartoum, he told the Arabic-language newspaper Al Hayat that these were the natural result of the government's policies on higher education and of popular discontent with economic hardship.

"The government must realise that these demonstrations were not the first and will not be the last. It must look at studying the reasons for them, rather than suppressing them," he said.

"Mahdi admitted that there had been a relative political relaxation in the country and called for a continuation of this relaxation," Al Hayat said.

"(There should be) changes in the laws and policies which lead to people being detained for expressing their opinions objectively," Dr. Mahdi added.

"Some hardliners who call for violence must realise violence will not achieve good results. It is a dead end," he said.

Many members of the Sudanese opposition in exile favour a popular uprising backed by force to overthrow the military government of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who himself threw Dr. Mahdi out of office in 1989.

Dr. Mahdi repeated his call for a constitutional conference bringing together all Sudanese political forces.

The government says it is ready for reconciliation with individual opposition figures but it will not deal with the old political parties it dissolved in 1989.

Newspaper suspended

Authorities in Sudan have stopped publication of a privately owned newspaper which had recently criticised Khartoum's military governments, the state press and publications council said

Council chairman Mohammad Saeed Maruf said the paper, Al Rai Al Akher, broke the law by not appointing a qualified editor during the absence of its regular editor Mohieddin Titawi.

Mr. Maruf's comments were quoted in a government newspaper.

Al Rai Al Akher (the other view), has recently published articles criticising the military government.

One article by a prominent lawyer said Sudan was growing increasingly isolated internationally.

Violations in Bosnia ahead of deadline

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Serb forces fired two missiles at a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) plane near Sarajevo on Wednesday, and the Bosnian army was heavily criticised for firing mortar bombs, hours before a NATO deadline for the Serbs to lift their siege of the city.

As the Serbs withdrew heavy weapons from around Sarajevo to meet the deadline, they announced that Serb paramilitary troops had come to their defence in northwestern Bosnia.

The Serbs allowed U.N. peacekeepers to monitor a pullback of their heaviest guns, and NATO and U.N. officials said it appeared the Serbs would meet the 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) deadline for withdrawal, rather than risk renewed NATO airstrikes.

U.N. sources said on condition of anonymity that the Serbs had withdrawn about 230 of an estimated 300 heavy weapons from the city's 20-kilometre exclusion zone.

Some rebels continued defiant, firing at two NATO planes near Sarajevo before dawn Wednesday, said NATO spokesman Captain Mark van Dyke. No planes were damaged.

Both incidents violated NATO's ultimatum to the Serbs, but the alliance appeared unwilling to resume bombings that would damage U.S.-led push to end 40 months of Balkan war.

Leading Serb military troops in northwestern Bosnia is Zeljko Raznatovic, alias Arkan, branded a war criminal by the United States. His arrival indicated the Serbs are determined to halt Muslim-Croat attacks on the besieged region of Banja Luka.

Arkan's forces stand accused of committing some of the worst war atrocities in Croatia and Bosnia and of participating in the mass evictin of non-Serbs from their homes.

The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA and local radio in Serb-held Prijedor reported Wednesday that Arkan had joined rebel forces in Sanski Most, some 40 kilometres west of Banja Luka.

"We came here to defend the people and get back what is ours. We will not allow the Ustashi (Croat) knives to slaughter Serbs again," Arkan told SRNA without specifying how many of his Serb volunteers's guard were with him on Bosnian territory.

In their recent offensive in central and western Bosnia, Muslim and Croat forces captured vast territory from retreating Serbs, slashing rebel holdings from 70 per cent to under 50 per cent, U.N. officials said.

PLO assails Lebanon's 'human waste' remark

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Wednesday slammed Lebanese Tourism Minister Nicolas Fattush for describing Palestinians expelled from Libya as "human waste."

"It is a disgusting declaration from a minister devoid of any morals," the PLO's representative to the Arab League, Mohammad Sobeih, said before the opening of a meeting of the organisation's foreign ministers here.

Mr. Fattush reportedly said that the Palestinians were "human waste being dumped in Lebanon."

But on Friday he qualified his remarks saying he had been misunderstood, adding: "What I wanted to say was that no country in the world has the right to use the Palestinian people as human waste."

Mr. Sobeih, however, said the explanation was insufficient.

The minister was sharply criticised in Lebanon by the media and several political figures called for his resignation.

But Lebanese Transport Minister Omar Miskawi later told a Palestinian delegation the remarks were merely a "slip of the tongue" which did not reflect official Lebanese position.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi began to throw out 30,000 Palestinians in Libya at the beginning of the month in a bid to illustrate that the Israel-PLO autonomy accords have not created a Palestinian homeland.

Lebanon and Egypt have both refused to take in the expelled Palestinians, leaving about 150 stranded at a no-man's land between the Libyan and Egyptian borders for more than two weeks.

Late Tuesday officials at the PLO headquarters in Tunis announced they had set up a crisis team to deal with the situation.

The expulsions are not on the agenda for the Arab League meeting that started here Wednesday, but will be taken up on the sidelines in meetings between the PLO, the Arab League and Libya.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid met with the Libyan Arab Unity Minister Jomaa Al Fazzani on Tuesday to discuss the expulsions and was due to meet Wednesday with the head of the PLO's politburo Farook Kadoumi, Mr. Sobeih said.

The Libyan authorities have given businesses 60 days to put their employees' papers in order, the justice ministry said Tuesday.

Afghan power-brokers court former monarch in exile

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Zaher Shah, the Afghan monarch deposed in 1973, could again become a key figure in the political intrigue on the sidelines of his country's civil war.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ali met the 79-year-old Zaher Shah at his home in Rome at the start of the week, according to diplomatic sources, though no official announcement was made.

In July, the Pakistan government gave a special welcome to the former king's son-in-law, Sardar Abdul Wali, sparking protests from Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The authorities in Pakistan have radically changed their longstanding hostility in Afghanistan's royal family over border claims while Zaher Shah ruled.

Zaher Shah's attraction is that he is the only known Afghan figure who is not discredited. His independence from all the factions fighting for control of the country is undoubted.

The former king's image has been strengthened, indirectly, by the general disdain now shown towards the traditional Mujahedeen chiefs, who have proved themselves incapable of making any kind of agreement to end the civil war that has torn the country apart since the fall of the communist government in 1992.

Zaher Shah ruled for 40 years until he was overthrown by a cousin, Sardar Daud, in 1973 and became an exile in Rome.

Top diplomatic sources said there was a Pakistan plan for the former king to play "the bridge" between southern Afghanistan, dominated by the Taliban Islamic militia, and the north, now controlled mainly by Rashid Dostum, a former communist general, and his ethnic Uzbek forces.

On top of his distance

Zaher Shah

from the warring parties, Zaher Shah has the advantage of being, like most of the Talibans' religious students, a Pashtun and from Kandahar. The southern city is the former royal capital as well as the Talibans' headquarters.

Gen. Dostum has already shown his ideological flexibility by allying last year with the Muslim fundamentalist chief, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Gen. Dostum has said he would have no objection to an eventual return by the king. But one diplomat commented, however, "Dostum would even accept Mickey Mouse as president if he thought he would get a share of power."

The main stumbling block for the plan that Pakistan is said to have prepared is the Afghan president and his military right-hand man, Ahmad Shah Masoud.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Masoud, who have accused Pakistan of interfering in Afghan affairs, have not been included in the plan.

"For the first time ever, there is unanimity of opinion in Pakistan bureaucracy to get Rabbani and Masoud out of Kabul," said a diplomat.

The plan could be financially costly, diplomats said. In spite of the ex-king's popularity in Kabul and the south of Afghanistan, the Pashtun tribal chiefs would have to be compensated for giving him the royal welcome he would demand.

One diplomatic source said it could cost several million dollars and that Saudi Arabia had been lobbied. But he added: "The Saudis want accountability. If they pay for the return of Zaher Shah, they want a role."

Many observers are now waiting for signs of Zaher Shah's desire to return to political life. He was a constitutional monarch when in Afghanistan and has no lust for power for himself or any of his four sons, one informed source observed.

As a symbol of national unity, the former king has also repeatedly said he would never return to Afghanistan unless asked by all the political players.

COLUMN

Naples saint's blood liquefies right on schedule

NAPLES, Italy (R) — The substance Neapolitans believe is the blood of their city's patron saint liquefied on schedule Tuesday in a repeat of a ritual "miracle" they believe brings good luck. The miracle of the blood of San Gennaro occurred about an hour after some 3,000 faithful prayed along with the southern city's archbishop, Cardinal Michele Giordano, in Naples cathedral. The phenomenon is regularly hailed as averting disaster which superstitious Neapolitans believe will strike the city if the substance held in a gold phial fails to liquefy. The miracle has been recorded on set dates twice a year for the past 600 years — Sept. 19, the fourth century saint's feast day, and the first Saturday in May. Italian scientists have confirmed that the substance is blood but have not discovered why it liquefies regularly.

Nasal spray could help prevent common cold

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — A nasal spray being developed by researchers could possibly stop the common cold from infecting people who squirt a few drops in their nose, scientists said Tuesday. Though not a cure, the medicine, a synthetic version of a molecular substance that exists in the human nose, has shown to be effective in stopping the rhinovirus from infecting chimpanzees. The rhinovirus is responsible for about half of all colds. Edward Huguenel of Bayer Corp. outlined the work at a meeting sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology. The medicine, still in the early research stages, essentially lures the rhinovirus toward the fake lining and away from the actual nasal passages, thereby avoiding infection.

China to build university for the disabled

BEIJING (R) — China said Wednesday it was establishing the country's first university exclusively for the disabled, featuring cheap or even free tuition. The state had budgeted 180 million yuan ($21.6 million) for initial construction of the school in Yantai in northern Shandong province, the Xinhua News Agency said. Its kind in China, the university would be open only to disabled persons, Xinhua said. It would offer courses in law, finance and computers, as well as Chinese traditional massage, arts and crafts, it said. Tuition fees would be lower than at other Chinese universities and some students with special abilities would have fees waived, Xinhua said.

Carter collaborates with daughter on book

ATLANTA (R) — Jimmy Carter, well known as a former president, a peacemaker and a poet, is about to add yet another title to his curriculum vitae: children's author. Times Books said Tuesday the 70-year-old Carter has collaborated with his daughter Amy on a children's book entitled The Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer. Written by Mr. Carter, the tale of a sea monster who befriends a crippled boy is based on a story the former president used to tell his children when they were small. Amy Carter, a graduate student in art, did the illustrations. "Amy's illustrations startled me at first, but I have grown to love them," Carter was quoted as saying by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Tuesday.